Conviction of woman who arranged sham marriages affirmed. PAGE 3
Couple sues for lack of action on pending petition. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 156

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75¢

CUC customers get $166 subsidy

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pursuant to the supplemental budget law, Public Law 19-75, each residential customer of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be credited $166.49 this month.

In a statement yesterday, it said that CUC will distribute utility billing credits by subsidizing the fuel adjustment charge, as provided under P.L. 19-75, which allocated $2 million for this purpose.

The subsidy that is applied is strictly to offset the fuel adjustment

See CUC on Page 4

ARFF chief James Diaz resigns

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting chief James Diaz left the position last month, making the position vacant. Commonwealth Ports Authority has yet to name his replacement as of press time.

"I informed the CPA about my plan to leave work last April due to medical reasons. I was diagnosed [with] diabetes four years ago and I want to take care of my health from here on," Diaz said.

Diaz joined CPA ARFF in 1990 and has committed 27 years of service to the department.

"It was my first job. I rose through the ranks, from being a trainee to a firefighter and in 2007 I was named fire chief. I moved up by working hard. I love being a firefighter."

The core of Diaz's work was in aviation safety and his job's biggest challenge was to meet the requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration.

"It was a big responsibility but we do our part. Me and my team's focus

See ARFF on Page 4

FREE CONCERT

People filled the Thursday Night Market to watch the free concert staged by IT&E on Thursday night. The concert was intended to celebrate the island's resilience after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor two years ago. "As soon as we put up out tent, people started coming in," said IT&E director for product marketing Angela Rosario.

BEA CABRERA

XTRA Airways to launch service to CNMI

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

XTRA Airways intends to launch flights from China to the CNMI in September this year and its application is currently pending with the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation.

XTRA Airways' initial plan is to launch a China-Saipan route. The Marianas Visitors Authority has met with the officials of the airline on Saipan and MVA's team in China.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said, "I think they are targeting a September launch flight from China to Saipan. They have also applied for rights to land in Guam. I heard there are talks of doing Saipan-Guam and inter-island flights that I think will be a great move for them. The market needs it and can sustain it."

XTRA Airways, a U.S.-based carrier based in Florida and founded in

See XTRA on Page 4

'HR 339 falls severely short'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

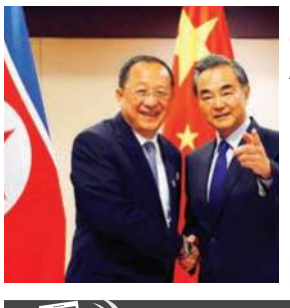
The latest form of H.R. 339, which opened up 360 more slots for the Commonwealth's foreign worker program, CW-1, has drawn flak from two local lawmakers.

According to Senate Health and Welfare Committee chair Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), the amendment to H.R. 339 was "unexpected and sad."

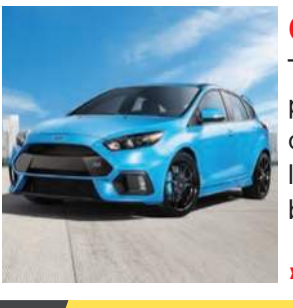
Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) raised concerns about the effectiveness of H.R. 339, given that fiscal year 2017 will end on Sept. 30, 2017.

See HR 339 on Page 4

INSIDE



ASIA
A global pressure campaign on North Korea receives a boost from China.
PAGE 18



OVERDRIVE
The Focus RS is the performance version of Ford's successful line of Focus hatchbacks.
» PAGE X

LIFE & STYLE
Chris Pratt and Anna Faris are separating after eight years of marriage.
PAGE 21

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Trustee directed to present Settlement Fund status update

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

The Settlement Fund trustee was directed yesterday to present an update on the status of the Fund in mid-September.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood directed Joyce C. H. Tang, the Fund trustee representative, to file a status report with the court no later than Sept. 15, 2017.

The judge directed Tang to make the presentation on Sept. 27, 2017, at 9:30am.

Meanwhile, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is automatically substituted as the defendant in Betty Johnson's class action.

The Settlement Fund has been silent in the past several months.

Last January, Tydingco-Gatewood approved the payment of $36,500.94 to the Settlement Fund trustee for professional services and expenses incurred for a 10-month period in 2016.

In December 2016, the NMI government, the NMI Retirement Fund, and the NMI Settlement Fund jointly submitted in federal court a stipulation regarding the ownership of assets belonging to the Settlement Fund.

According to the stipulation, the U.S. District Court for the NMI has held that the Settlement Fund is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt entity created by the court-approved settlement agreement dated Aug. 6, 2013, in connection with Betty Johnson's class action lawsuit.

The parties agree that the Settlement Fund is not a pension plan and it does not operate or manage a pension plan.

The assets that were transferred to the Settlement Fund and now owned and controlled solely by the Settlement Fund include the Judicial Building loan note, and the leasehold interest(s) in real property that was transferred from the CNMI Fund to the Settlement Fund (to the extent allowed under CNMI law).

The other assets include all bonds, securities, investments, and cash accounts held in the name of the Settlement Fund, and payments to be made to the Settlement Fund under the settlement agreement.

In 2013 a global settlement agreement was reached in Johnson's class action against the Retirement Fund and the CNMI government. The deal settles the issue on how the Retirement Fund could collect from the government and eventually pay the retirees and refund the employees' contributions.

It was reported at that time that the Retirement Fund's assets were to be depleted in March 2014.

COMING TOGETHER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. executives and officials led by its chairman, Mark Brown, fourth from right at the back, help Gov. Ralph DLG Torres celebrate his 38th birthday at a special dinner hosted by friends and supporters Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

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Apple iPhone 6s 64GB UNLOCKED	$500
Apple iPhone 6s 16GB UNLOCKED	$450
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Apple iPhone 6 Plus 64GB UNLOCKED	$450
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Apple iPhone 6 64GB UNLOCKED	$400
Apple iPhone 6 16GB UNLOCKED	$350
Apple iPhone 5s 64GB UNLOCKED	$250
Apple iPhone 5s 32GB UNLOCKED	$220
Apple iPhone 5s 16GB UNLOCKED	$200

SAMSUNG PHONES:

Samsung Galaxy S8 Plus cost	$800
Samsung Galaxy S8 cost	$700
Samsung Galaxy Note 7 cost	$600
Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge cost	$550
Samsung Galaxy S7 cost	$500

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Conviction of woman who arranged sham marriages affirmed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction and the 12-month and one-day sentence slapped on a woman who orchestrated two sham marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards.

Ninth Circuit judges Raymond Fisher, Richard A. Paez, and Jacqueline Nguyen said that enough evidence supported the guilty verdict against Qiong Lu Pua.

Although accomplice testimony is inherently suspect, that does not mean a jury may not rely on it, the judges said, especially when corroborating evidence is offered to support the testimony.

Pua was convicted for conspiring to arrange the fraudulent marriages of Norma Nekaifes and Benigno Mettao, both U.S. citizens, to Zhenqing Lu and Baoqin Ding, both immigrants from China.

Lu is Pua's brother. Ding is Pua's friend. Mettao and Nekaifes testified against Pua.

In her appeal, Pua argued that she should have received a three-level reduction because the offense was not for profit.

Pua also argued that there was not enough evidence to support a conclusion that she played a leadership role in the conspiracy.

But the Circuit judges said even without Nekaifes and Mettao's testimony, Pua's participation in both weddings and the circumstances surrounding each was highly suspect.

A rational jury could therefore believe Nekaifes and Mettao, the judges said.

In ruling that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not abuse her discretion, the Circuit judges said sentencing courts are given discretion to "determine which of the referenced guideline sections is most appropriate for the offense conduct charged in the count of which the defendant was convicted."

The judges said Manglona chose the appropriate guideline that fit Pua's conduct.

The Circuit judges said that, after reviewing the evidence submitted during the sentencing hearing, Manglona concluded Pua "did, in fact, make a statement to law enforcement that she did receive money" for aiding in the conspiracy.

The judges said this finding was supported by the record.

Finally, the Circuit judges said, Manglona did not abuse her discretion by applying a four-level increase for Pua's role as a leader of the conspiracy.

The judges said that Pua was the "common connection between all the conspirators in this case."

The judges said that Pua's undisputed participation in admittedly fraudulent marriages would be highly indicative of guilt.

On July 31, 2015, a federal jury found Pua guilty of the charge of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. She was sentenced on Jan. 29, 2016. She appealed her conviction and sentence.

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MAZDA 3

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7D184	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
7D206	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
7D207	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
7D208	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
7D210	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
~~7D211~~	~~GRAY 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD	~~$2,500~~	~~$18,495~~
7D212	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$2,500	$18,495
~~7D156~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$19,495~~
~~7D188~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$19,495~~
7D216	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D217	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
~~7D218~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$19,495~~
~~7D219~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$19,495~~

MAZDA 6

~~7D118~~	~~BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA~~ SOLD ~~ORT~~	~~$5,000~~	~~$19,995~~
~~7D119~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~ING~~	~~$5,000~~	~~$20,995~~

MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D180	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$7,000	$26,995
7D142	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, MT, GRAND TOURING HARD-TOP	$5,500	$32,495

CX-3 GRAND TOURING

7D136	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D137	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995

HYUNDAI

ACCENT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H200	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H203	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H204	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H224	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H225	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495

ELANTRA

~~7H208~~	~~GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~WHEELS~~	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
~~7H210~~	~~BEIGE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~WHEELS~~	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
7H211	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995

VELOSTER

7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H221	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H234	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

GENESIS G80

7HO67	SILVER, LEATHER SEATS, COMPLETELY "LOADED"	$6,500	$38,495

TUCSON 2WD

~~7H175~~	~~PEARL 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$22,495~~
~~7H180~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$22,495~~
~~7H181~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$22,495~~
7H185	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$22,495
7H186	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$22,495
~~7H192~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA~~ SOLD ~~Y WHEELS~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$22,495~~

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		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M014	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M017	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M024	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M026	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M027	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M029	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M030	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M031	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

LANCER ES

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M032	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M033	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M034	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

OUTLANDER

7M011	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 2WD SPORT	$3,000	$24,995
7M022	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995
7M036	SILVER 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995

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Police arrest another alleged IPI copper wire thief

Police arrested in Upper Miha, Garapan a 34-year-old man, who was tagged as the third suspect in the theft of 39 feet of copper wire from the Imperial Pacific International Ltd. compound in Lower Base.

John D. Sellem was taken before the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of theft and conspiracy.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $20,000 cash bail that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed in issuing the arrest warrant for Sellem.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 14 at 9am.

A private counsel will be appointed for Sellem. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

According to police, Mario O. Sablan and Frank T. Pangelinan were first arrested last July 2.

Sablan allegedly identified Sellem as their companion who managed to run away when they stole copper wire at the IPI compound last May 3.

Sablan allegedly told police that he met with Sellem in Garapan on May 3. The two men proceeded to U-Luck Poker in Garapan, where they met Pangelinan.

After the three smoked "ice" provided by Pangelinan, they proceeded to the IPI compound in Lower Base to steal copper wire. It was Sellem who allegedly directed them to the compound.

An IPI employee saw the three suspects stealing copper wire worth $1,018. The employee flagged down two police officers who happened to be heading to the area.

As a result, Sablan and Pangelinan were arrested at the scene. Sellem allegedly managed to run away. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free Veterans Choice workshops this week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting this week a series of Veterans Choice workshops that are open to veterans, their families, and members of the public who would like to learn more about veterans' options for healthcare through the Veterans Administration's Choice program.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Rota: Aug. 8, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, NMC instructional site, Room A-1
- Tinian: Aug. 9, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, Tinian Public Library
- Saipan: Aug. 10, 2017, from 5pm to 7pm, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TriWest (the VA's third-party administrator for the Choice program) will be present to share information and answer questions. ***(PR)***

Notice to all Kagman farm plot permittees

This is to inform all permittees that Department of Land and Natural Resource agents will be conducting scheduled visits as well as permitting inspections to all Kagman farm plots to determine whether permittees are in compliance with the rules and policies set forth in the Governing Uses of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot permit.

In order to address issues with violations, DLNR has already begun issuing eviction notices to any permittee engaging in the subleasing or transferring of farm plot(s) to a corporation or partner. This includes the use of the plots to cultivate forbidden substances.

Please call the DLNR-Division of Agriculture if there are any questions or concerns to this notice at 256-3318/19 or 322-9834. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 10

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Becky Robles, NCDB director, and her presentation will on NCD Bureau Services. Joining her will be Nikki Sablan, PROA program coordinator and Joyce Songsong, breast and cervical program coordinator. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Saturday Story Time in August at AMP

Youth of all ages are invited to join the American Memorial Park on Saturdays (Aug. 12, 19, and 26) from 2pm to 3pm for story time. During the hour, read *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. This book tells the story of a young girl from Hiroshima, Japan who becomes sick with leukemia in the years after the atomic bomb was dropped on her city, and her race to fold 1,000 paper cranes. Following the reading, everyone will be invited to make paper cranes, just like Sadako did in the story. Throughout the month, 1,000 paper cranes will be folded and sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima Japan.

To learn more about this program or other happenings at the park, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

XTRA

From Page 1

1989, offers charter flights and has expressed an intent to service the Saipan-Guam route.

"If you get approval from the FAA and USDOT, it says a lot about an airline. It means that you are better off than other airlines in other parts of the world," Concepcion said.

"We think that the additional airline is good for the CNMI, that's why we are excited. We are confident that they will be able to provide the service that's needed and the MVA is ready to work with them to promote the CNMI anywhere in the world that XTRA [Airways] wants to launch their service from," Concepcion added.

The opening of flights to the CNMI by XTRA Airways also opens the possibility of targeting new markets to boost tourism in the CNMI.

"If ever that happens, we are ready. The North America market is a mature and a sophisticated market; they have been traveling for many years. I don't see a huge growth from North America simply because we are far away. I think they have more options to go to Mexico, Caribbean, Hawaii, and South America for tropical vacations," Concepcion said.

"But we do get a number people coming here from the U.S. and Canada so we will continue to promote our islands the best we can in those markets," Concepcion added.

CUC

From Page 1

charge and will benefit each active residential electric account, including prepaid meter accounts, as of July 17, 2017.

The billing credit will show up in the consumer's August billing.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the subsidy applies to the FAC only and not to any other components of the residents' power bill.

The FAC subsidy is limited to residential accounts and is a one-time credit per CUC account number and is not based on the number of people living at the service location.

The credit has no cash value, is not redeemable for cash or service, and it is not transferable.

The FAC subsidy credit is non-disputable under the billing dispute provisions of CUC regulations.

The money for this subsidy is derived from gross revenue taxes paid by the casino license holder, as provided under Public Law 19-75, which was the supplemental budget of the CNMI government for fiscal year 2017. It became law in December last year.

In 2014, residential CUC customer got a subsidy on their utility bills amounting to $635.71 per account, courtesy of Best Sunshine International.

"As a consumer, the subsidy is greatly appreciated and a wonderful gift from the government to the public," Camacho said. "What is also nice about this is even though you did not exhaust the FAC in July, it would roll over to the following month so it is equally distributed," he added.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, lauded the issuance of the long-awaited subsidy. CUC's announcement comes nearly eight months since P.L. 19-75 was enacted.

A section of the law, 4 CMC Section 2308, states that a portion of casino BGRT is to be used to subsidize the FAC, formerly known as LEAC or the levelized energy adjustment clause, rate, that would otherwise be passed on to utility customers.

"The announcement from CUC that the $2 million appropriated to subsidize the FAC on active residential accounts has been finally distributed is welcome news," said Demapan. "Although this is a one-time credit per CUC account number, ratepayers can expect to see future appropriations from the Legislature as additional revenues sourced from casino BGRT continue to paid by the license holder."

Demapan said his committee continues to work with the Torres administration to make supplemental appropriations as a result of casino BGRT revenues. P.L. 19-75 appropriated a total of $40.9 million in December. Furthermore, the House and Senate recently passed Demapan's House Bill 20-103 HS1 appropriating $28 million from casino BGRT for the payment of the government's largest outstanding land compensation judgments. HB 20-103 HS1 is now on Torres' desk for his review and action.

Today, Demapan will introduce HB 20-108 to appropriate $1.4 million from casino BGRT for the payment of the remaining outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen.

"These legislations combined account for $70.3 million in revenues collected from casino BGR taxes and, if all become law, will translate to significant amount of revenues making its way back into the Commonwealth's economy," said Demapan. "As these funds continue to be collected, it will mean more funding sources for [the Public School System], [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], other pending land compensation cases, and medical referral, to name a few."

Demapan noted that he is reviewing all other pending land compensation judgment and claims to come up with an amicable solution to uphold the government's commitment to make whole with the affected landowners as funding sources become available.

ARFF

From Page 1

were safety equipment and facility-wise," said Diaz.

Assistant fire chief for operations Frederick A. Pangelinan said, "Diaz was a good leader. We worked well."

Before he left the department, Diaz gave recommendations of people who can fill the fire chief position.

"I made recommendations of people who I know will continue the objectives and vision of the department. These people have good character, leadership skills, innovative, and understand ARFF responsibilities," he said.

HR 339

From Page 1

H.R. 339, as authored by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, sought to bump up the CW-1 slots from 12,998 to 15,000 in fiscal year 2017; increase the supplemental education fee from $150 to $200; and allow construction workers who were first issued permits before Oct. 1, 2015, to extend those permits.

However, the version passed by the U.S. Senate opened up only 350 CW-1 slots—reserving 60 slots for "healthcare workers" and 10 for power plant workers. That means only 280 slots for all others.

"With our growing population due to growing developments in the CNMI, it is highly imperative that the U.S. Congress considers increasing our CW-1 slots for nurses for 2018 to avert our nurses working longer hours, decreasing nurses burnout, and reducing overtime pay," said Santos in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the increasing number of patients in the CNMI, which includes a diverse demographic that consists of tourists, locals, and even CW-1 workers, is being affected by the limited number of nurses.

"Maintaining an appropriate nurse-patient ratio is crucial to ensure the best healthcare is provided to our patients. Anything in the contrary would impact the safety and quality of patient care at our hospital and clinics," said Santos.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) is concerned over the nearing end of the fiscal year.

"… By the time this bill becomes law, if it does become law, businesses will essentially not be able to avail of the additional CW slots," said Demapan.

Though thankful for the amendments offered by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), "the [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s] capacity will still not be met with only 60 permits set aside."

"The numbers simply do not add up and, obviously, if the intent was to ensure we have enough nurses to take care of our people, then H.R. 339 falls severely short of doing so," said Demapan.

Possible construction worries

Demapan noted that, although H.R. 339 addresses some problems of the CW-1 program, it overlooks another problem caused by one of its provisions: construction workers.

"I am even much more concerned about the short-sighted approach of the bill to not set aside a certain amount of permits for construction workers," said Demapan, adding that he has been contacted by "almost all the Commonwealth's longstanding and honest construction companies that…helped build our residential homes, schools, churches, and even our roads."

" [The construction companies] have expressed their disappointment with regards to how H.R. 339 was crafted to put construction companies out of business and chokehold the future of our economy," said Demapan.

He said he is "deeply concerned" about the impacts H.R. 339 imposes on CNMI residents and "their chance at building affordable homes in the future."

"What we need is legislation that addresses our long-term needs and provides equity for residents and businesses alike," said Demapan.

H.R. 339 is back in the U.S. House for action. However, Congress is in recess right now.

Couple sues for lack of action on pending petition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

A couple is suing officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Services for allegedly not acting on their pending petition for a green card.

The petition has allegedly been pending for 13 months now.

Robert Lee Hale Jr. and Suinan Zhong have a pending I-130 petition for alien relative and I-485 application for adjustment of status to get a green card.

The couple, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, is suing DHS Secretary John Kelly, USCIS National Benefits Center director Robert M. Cowan, USCIS district director David Gulick, acting USCIS director James McCamant, and U.S. Attorney General Jefferson Sessions.

Mok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to direct USCIS to issue a decision on the couple's pending petition and application and for Kelly, Cowan, Gulick, McCamant, and Sessions to decide on the merits of the petition and application.

The couple is also seeking attorney's fees and court costs.

Hale, a U.S. citizen, and Zhong, a Chinese national, were married on Saipan on March 9, 2015.

On July 21, 2015, Hale filed with USCIS an I-130 petition on behalf of his wife, seeking to have her classified as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen.

That same day, Zhong filed with USCIS an I-485 application for adjustment of status to a permanent resident.

On June 6, 2016, the couple appeared for an adjustment of status interview at the USCIS Office on Saipan.

At the end of that interview, Hale and Zhong were issued a request for additional information by the USCIS officer.

That required Zhong to resubmit her I-693 medical examination because her medical provider had inadvertently filled out an I-693 form that was outdated.

On June 8, 2016, two days after being issued the request for additional information, the couple hand-delivered the I-693 medical examination signed by Zhong's medical provider on an updated form.

Since then, Mok said, the couple has not received any further communications from USCIS about their pending I-130 petition and I-485 application.

During this time, the couple allegedly made many InfoPass examinations and made several phone calls to the National Customer Service Center, seeking to find out the reason for the delay in the adjudication of their case.

Petitioners allegedly failed to receive any helpful information from these inquiries other than being told their case was pending.

On Feb. 2, 2017, petitioners sent a letter to USCIS inquiring on the status of their pending case.

To date, Mok said, petitioners have not received a response.

"The 13-month delay at issue is inherently unreasonable and thus far inexplicable," Mok said.

The lawyer said issuance of a decision after an adjustment of status interview usually takes two to three weeks.

After the interview, Mok said, the USCIS officer does a final review of the file and make a recommendation to the USCIS field director as to whether the application for adjustment of status should be granted or denied.

If granted, he said, the applicant will receive permanent residence (also known as a green card).

If denied, the lawyer said, USCIS will issue a notice of denial or a notice of an intent to deny.

Mok said if further information is required then USCIS will issue a request for additional information.

"It is highly unusual and unreasonable for the USCIS to conduct an adjustment of status interview then wait over a year without making any decision whatsoever," Mok said.

By doing so, he said, the USCIS has placed the petitioners in administrative "limbo" that has caused them unnecessary anxiety and stress.

Mok said the couple's failure to receive a decision on their pending I-130 petition and I-485 application are directly and solely attributable to the neglect and/or wrongful indifference of the USCIS.

Mok said the failure of the USCIS to make a decision is causing ongoing hardship to the couple by preventing Zhong from adjusting her status to that of a permanent resident.

Beilida staff seeks some freedoms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of five persons who've been indicted for allegedly harboring aliens who worked at the casino project in Garapan has asked for some freedom that would allow her to take care of personal matters during the day.

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto has opposed Xiufang Qi's request.

A jury trial is currently scheduled on Oct. 31, 2017.

Qi, a Chinese national, was arrested on April 6, 2017, and indicted with one count of harboring illegal aliens. She was released last April 12 subject to some conditions.

Qi, through court-appointed counsel Steven P. Pixley, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that she has essentially been under "house arrest" with electronic monitoring and has complied with the conditions of her release.

Pixley said that Qi seeks some liberty to shop, exercise, and handle personal matters during daytime. He noted that the court had already imposed conditions that prevent Qi from fleeing the CNMI, including the surrender of her passport.

Qi is currently restricted to a one-room apartment.

Pixley pointed out that the court recently modified the conditions of release of Qi's co-defendant, Hongwei Ma.

The court placed Ma under a curfew from 7pm to 6am. Pixley asked for a similar modification of Qi's conditions.

In the U.S. government's opposition, Benedetto pointed out that Qi was arrested at the airport while attempting to flee—the very definition of a flight risk.

Qi and Ma are staff of Beilida Overseas. The two other defendants are Beilida Overseas president Hui Lu and Beilida's Wencao Guo.

A separate indictment charged MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao with harboring illegal aliens.

Of the five indicted, only Lu has yet to be arrested.

The indictment alleges that on March 8 through 22, 2017, Ma, Lu, and Guo harbored an illegal alien, Yuanhou Hu, by shielding him from detection and which resulted in Hu's death.

Hu, a Chinese national, reportedly died after falling from a scaffold at the construction site of the Imperial Pacific casino and resort project last March 22.

The FBI found out that Hu entered the CNMI as a tourist and was not authorized to work in the CNMI.

On Feb. 7 through March 22, 2017, Ma, Lu, Guo, and Qi allegedly harbored six illegal aliens.

A separate indictment alleges that from Aug. 1, 2016, until March 31, 2017, Zhao harbored 15 illegal aliens.

MCC International was the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida was one of the subcontractors of the project.

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DONATION TO TMS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors Corp. general manager Matt Deets, third from left, is joined by other Joeten Motors employees in presenting a $2,000 donation to Tanapag Middle School.

Tour guide certification regs up for comments

Public comments for regulations that will govern the Marianas Visitors Authority's Tour Guide Certification Program are now being accepted.

The regulations, drafted in consultation with related agencies and industry professionals, were published on July28, 2017, in the *CNMI Register* for a 30-day comment period.

"The Tour Guide Certification Program aims to ensure that the quality of service, safety, and care of our visitors is at the highest industry level," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're looking forward to finalizing the regulations and beginning the program, which will only improve the Marianas' reputation as a premiere destination."

As proposed, individual tour guides will be required to provide police and traffic clearance and to complete MVA's training course at Northern Marianas College and pass an examination on the history, culture, scenic and historic sites, attractions, environmental protection and conservation laws of the Marianas.

The application fee for individual tour guides is $50, and tour guides will be required to display their badges when conducting tours.

Tour operators and tourist land/sea transport operators would be required to provide: 1) proof that the applicants maintain an office within the CNMI, 2) a certification that the applicant does not employ any tour guides that are not certified pursuant to the regulations, 3) proof that the applicant maintains a bank account in the CNMI under the business' name, 4) the applicant's business license, 5) the name of an employee or a retained independent contractor who is fluent in the English language, and 6) proof that the applicant is a member in good standing with the MVA.

The fee for a tour operators application is $100.

The certification would be valid for three years unless revoked or suspended, but the badge would need to be renewed every year.

"This program is new for all of us, and to ensure its smooth implementation we have carefully considered each step, from the scheduling of classes to accommodate all the tour guides we now have, to how best it should be enforced," said Concepcion. "The tour guide certification program will be a work in progress, but it is absolutely necessary. We welcome feedback during this comment period and as we move forward."

Violations may result in monetary sanctions, revocation of a certification and/or business license, refusal to issue or renew a certification, or equitable sanctions.

Under the current law, the MVA and other government agencies are responsible for enforcement. The MVA will also allow its security guards stationed at major tourist sites to act as enforcement officials.

The proposed regulations are available online on the *CNMI Register* at https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/cnmiregister/2017_Volume_39/2017_Number_07.pdf. ***(MVA)***

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Established 1993

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2018 as follows:

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2018)

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA)**.

NMC ties up with University of Alaska on social work program

As part of its efforts to build workforce capacity in the area of social work, the Northern Marianas College is partnering with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks to offer an associate degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in social work.

Graduates of the 61-credit program will be able to transfer 48 of the credits they earn at NMC toward a bachelor's degree in Social Work that is offered at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

Professional social workers occupy different roles at all levels in many organizations, including schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practice, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that service individuals and families in need.

"Our partnership with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks allows students who are pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work to transition smoothly from NMC to UAF upon graduation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Students who are enrolled in the newly-launched emphasis program at NMC will also be able to transfer four social work courses directly into the UAF social work program.

Further, according the NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen, students wishing to enroll in the four-year bachelor's in social work program at the UAF will also have the opportunity to complete their four-year degree program via online and telecourse instruction.

The first requisite social work course in the program, "Intro to Social Work (SW 200)," will be offered at NMC this fall 2017 semester.

Any interested candidates should contact Thomas D. Sharts, chairperson of the Social Sciences and Fine Arts by calling 670-237-6761 or emailing thomas.sharts@marianas.edu. Students can also contact Velma Deleon Guerrero, Liberal Arts coordinator, by calling 670-237-6740 or emailing velma.deleon.guerro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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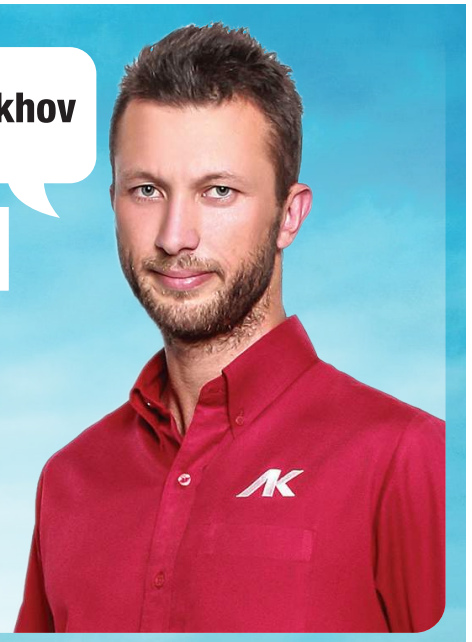

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FREE CONCERT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres are joined by IT&E chief executive officer Jim Oehlerking and IT&E customer service manager Janice Marie A. Tenorio during Thursday night's concert in celebrating the island's resilience after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor two years ago.

The John Dank Show band. "We always look forward performing here in the CNMI," said lead singer and guitarist Frankie McJohn.

BEA CABRERA

IT&E marketing staff welcomes people to the concert last Thursday by giving away caps and glow sticks.

BEA CABRERA

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE

OF CUC'S CONDITIONALLY APPROVED WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN TO BE PRESENTED DURING A PUBLIC MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2017

This is a notice of a public meeting to be held by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") for the purpose of presenting and discussing the Water and Wastewater Master Plan which has been conditionally approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").

CUC will conduct a public meeting on **August 15, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.,** at the **CNMI Multi-Purpose Center** located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, to provide information on and to receive discussion and public comment related to CUC's conditionally approved Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

Pursuant to Section III.B., Paragraph 50 of Stipulated Order Number One for Preliminary Injunctive Relief ("SO1"), filed under United States District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. 08-0051, CUC is required to develop and submit for EPA approval a comprehensive drinking water and wastewater master plan ("Master Plan") to address the drinking water and wastewater systems needs in the CNMI for the next 20 years. The Master Plan's requirements and scope of interest is set forth further under Sections III.B1, B2, B3 and B4 of SO1.

Copies of the conditionally approved Master Plan and SO1 are available in its entirety for review for at least the next 45 days on CUC's website at: http://www.cucgov.org. Please click on "Draft Water & Wastewater Master Plan" to view or download the documents. A written copy of the Master Plan will also be available for inspection at the CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office. CUC will also be providing copies to the Joeten-Kiyu Library and the Northern Marianas College Library during this time.

Written comments are also being solicited and can be mailed to CUC at P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to: CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

BANK OF SAIPAN

Marianas Pride

DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa or Garapan Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2017.

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2017 will be paid to the "CNMI TREASURER" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2017 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

BANK OF SAIPAN

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LAUNCHING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

MCS revives band program

Mount Carmel School will be reviving its band program this upcoming school year with the hiring of a new music teacher, Julian Greening.

Greening comes to the school with an extensive background in music. He earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and was awarded the university's prestigious Music Talent Award upon graduating. Afterwards, he went on to teach band and music at several schools throughout Japan.

Greening has also performed around the world in dozens of musical productions, including *Fiddler on the Roof, Singing in the Rain,* and *South Pacific*.

He also performed at Carnegie Hall under the direction of H. Robert Reynolds, the principal conductor of the wind ensemble for the University of Southern California, and even performed with the alt-punk band Weezer during their 2008 North American tour.

When asked about his lifelong commitment to music, Greening said, "I was born and raised in Japan, but since music is a universal language, it helped connect with people when I studied in the U.S. …Music helps us connect with people."

Greening looks forward to sharing his passion for music with Mount Carmel School's students. "I am very excited about coming to Mount Carmel School to build an excellent music program and to help students enjoy music the same way that I do."

As part of that effort, Julian aims to hold two concerts during the first year of the program, with a goal of eventually competing in the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

The revival of the school's band program is part of the school's strategic master plan, which was endorsed by the school's board of directors this past May. The plan includes funding for a music teaching position and continued work on the Save the Stage Campaign. While the campaign aims to renovate the school's historic stage, the revival of the music program also harkens to the school's heritage. During the 1960s and 1970s, the school's band was often selected to play for key community events, including official visits from United Nations dignitaries and representatives of the U.S. government during Covenant negotiations.

For more information about Mount Carmel School's band program, or to enroll for the new school year, call 234-6184 or visitwww.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School's revived band program will be headed by Julian Greening, a music education graduate from Bowling Green State University in Ohio who has performed around the world, including Carnegie Hall. MCS

DOC chief looks at smooth re-integration of inmates

Newly confirmed Corrections Commissioner Vincent Attao seeks to improve programs for inmates that will smoothen their re-integration in society.

In a Senate session last week, Attao said his main priorities would be programs for inmates to "help them become productive members of society once again."

"That is something that we need to improve on and enhance every aspect of," said Attao. "We are still in the process of trying to determine what programs would work for our inmates here and [would work for] our facility."

Also, on his checklist of priorities are hiring additional DOC staff and more training for them.

Attao's appointment was supposed to have been approved earlier but he has been off-island on personal matters since the Senate hearing on his appointment last June 23, 2017. After being excused from three confirmation hearings, Attao was finally approved for the position last week.

Attao has openly expressed his desire to recruit new officers. During the DOC budget hearing in June, Attao said this will address the increased number of inmates, which he estimates is already at the 250 mark.

The 7th Department of Corrections cycle would be graduating this Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017.

Attao wishes to recruit 18 officers. The 7th DOC cycle will only have 15 graduates. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Mount Carmel School
SY 17-18 Opening Schedule

Thursday, August 10
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL*
7:30 am: Homeroom
9:00–10:00: Opening Mass
10:30–3:00: Student Orientation
High School
Scheduling Fair
11:30 am: K4 Dismissal
3:00 pm: K5-12 Dismissal
**Note that parking for all employees and student drivers is located to the south side of the gymnasium.*

Friday, August 11
Regular Classes

Wednesday, August 16
Parent Orientation/Open House
5:00—7:00 pm

Slots still open in a few grade levels. Reserve your slot and register today!

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BECOME A KNIGHT

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What is happening in the Trump administration?

President Donald Trump announced support for immigration legislation Wednesday that would cut by half the federal program that allows legal immigration into the country and stop giving priority to relatives of citizens and legal residents. It has little support and no chance of passing. Yet he held a news conference about drastic changes to legal immigration policies that would trample the nation's ideals.

The president is scrambling, trying to change the narrative and turn the spotlight away from the health insurance debacle, plummeting polls, a potential news-rigging scandal, Russian sanctions he did not want and his strange affinity for making untrue statements.

Trump feels he needs to re-energize his base as his poll numbers hit all-time lows. The Real Clear Politics polling average shows the president's approval is down to 39 percent, 18 points lower than his disapproval rating. Even Trump's personal favorite poll, Rasmussen, showed his approval rating slipping to 39 percent this week.

And the credibility of the White House keeps getting called into question. A federal lawsuit claims that Trump himself was involved in a discredited and retracted Fox News story. The story asserted that a Democratic National Committee worker might have been killed because of the false claim that he was the one dumping documents damaging to Hillary Clinton's campaign, not the Russia-backed WikiLeaks.

And then there are casually invented, easily revealed untruths. Trump's too-political and strange speech to the national Boy Scout Jamboree about how builder William Levitt lost his empire got mixed reviews. But when The Wall Street Journal described it that way, Trump disagreed. "I got a call from the head of the Boy Scouts saying it was the greatest speech that was ever made to them, and they were very thankful," he said. The Boy Scouts say no such call was made.

Trump also claimed Monday he had a phone call from the president of Mexico congratulating him on his success in stopping illegal crossings at our Southern border. Trump said, "Even the president of Mexico called me. Their Southern border, they said very few people are coming because they know they're not going to get to our border, which is the ultimate compliment." But President Enrique Pena Nieto says the call never happened, and a Trump spokeswoman admitted there was no call. The White House later said Trump meant to say he was congratulated in person after the Boy Scout speech and spoke to Nieto at the G-20 summit last month. Nieto says the two did discuss migration then, but also says the numbers Trump claims Nieto gave him are not the ones the Mexican president provided.

As for the immigration plan Trump introduced, it would slash by half the number of people who could move here legally each year. It would also stop favoring family members of legal residents, instead rewarding highly skilled workers and those who can speak English. In other words, it would create a set of rules entirely different from the ones that allowed our forebears to come here and build lives.

Trump's theme for this week is "American dream." But increasingly, this is turning into a nightmare.

(c)2017 Newsday

Russia slaps US; Trump won't slap back

By MAX BOOT
Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times' opinion section and is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Last weekend, Vladimir Putin announced that the U.S. diplomatic mission in Russia would have to shed 755 members. Most of those, admittedly, will be local support staff; of roughly 1,200 people employed by the U.S. government in Russia, 333 are U.S. citizens and 867 are foreign nationals, most likely Russians. So this isn't quite the mass expulsion of U.S. diplomats that was portrayed in initial news reports. It's "merely" a mass layoff of Russian workers who will now suffer because of the whims of their president. But it's still a substantial slap at the United States—far more serious than President Barack Obama's expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats in retaliation for the Kremlin meddling in the U.S. election.

Putin's action is a sign that he has given up hope that the Trump administration will lift sanctions on Russians and otherwise conciliate the Kremlin, as Michael Flynn, who would later be named and then deposed as national security advisor, apparently hinted to the Russian ambassador Sergei Kislyak before the inauguration. U.S.-Russia relations, far from improving as President Donald Trump had promised, are in the depths of an icy freeze that is reviving talk of a new Cold War.

So far, Trump hasn't conceded that dismal reality. His silence suggests he remains wedded to the fantasy that Putin is an admirable leader and a potential American ally in Syria and beyond, and his long-standing affection for the Russian dictator seems to have only grown stronger after the two men spent hours bonding with one another in Hamburg.

Just imagine if Rosie O'Donnell, "Crooked Hillary," the "failing New York Times" or one of the president's other supposed enemies had insulted him, however slightly. He would surely have gone ballistic on Twitter by now. But there is not a word about Russia or Putin in Trump's Twitter feed, nor in his public comments, save for his ritualistic (and increasingly unconvincing) denials of any collusion between his campaign and Russia in the election.

The only official U.S. response to Putin's act was a perfunctory State Department statement saying the expulsion was "regrettable and uncalled for." Vice President Mike Pence talked tough on Russia while in Estonia, but Trump continues his streak of never speaking ill of Putin, a streak all the more remarkable given how many other people Trump routinely disparages. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, a recipient of the Order of Friendship from Putin, also has been thunderously silent about this unwarranted affront to the department he leads.

Trump, to be sure, signed a bill imposing further sanctions on Russia but only because he had no choice—it passed both houses by veto-proof margins. The legislation removes presidential discretion to lift sanctions, an extraordinary repudiation that indicates how worried lawmakers of both parties are about this president's fondness for Russia's dictator. Trump dragged his feet as much as possible and tried to water down the legislation, but contrary to White House claims, he did not manage to substantially alter the bill. Putin went ahead with his retaliation once the Senate and the House rejected administration entreaties to go easy on Russia.

Now the question is whether the administration will do anything at all to respond to Putin's enforced downsizing of the U.S. mission in Russia. If Trump were so inclined, there is much he could do, from slowing down the issuance of visas to Russians who want to visit the U.S., to freezing the bank accounts of Putin and his oligarch friends (it would be poetic justice to freeze 755 accounts), to adopting a Pentagon proposal to ship anti-tank missiles and other potent weaponry to the Ukrainian armed forces resisting Russian aggression.

Will Trump do any of this? Doubtful. The only anti-Russian measures he has taken are those that have been forced on him by Congress. The administration isn't hesitating to impose personal sanctions on the dictator of Venezuela, just the dictator of Russia.

Trump's fondness for Putin is the big mystery of global politics. Perhaps Trump simply admires the Russian strongman, or perhaps the Steele Dossier, compiled by a former British intelligence officer, is accurate and Putin has something on Trump. Whatever the case, Trump's unwillingness to get tough with Russia saps his credibility, strengthens suspicions of collusion with the Kremlin, worries our Eastern European allies and undermines America's standing in the world. That is a high price to pay for trying to remain in the good graces of an anti-American dictator.

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Tillerson conducts diplomacy as if he were still the god-head of Exxon Mobil

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Back in 2013, Gen. James Mattis warned Congress about the dangers of undercutting U.S. diplomacy.

"If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition," said the general, who was then head of U.S. Central Command. Mattis recognized that skilled diplomacy is required to prevent wars or cement military victories.

Fast forward to now, when President Donald Trump not only wants to slash the State Department's budget by a third but clearly considers the department unnecessary. His vision of foreign policy revolves around military strikes and arranging mythical "big deals"—while tweeting bizarre missives at world leaders.

Meantime, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson conducts diplomacy as if he were still the god-head of Exxon Mobil, consulting only a few aides while facilitating the gutting of the department. Most key posts and many crucial ambassadorships remain vacant.

At a time when skilled U.S. diplomacy is desperately needed to deal with North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan and Syria, Trump and Tillerson seem bent on dismantling our ability to act.

The big disappointment is Tillerson, whom many (myself included) had hoped would bring his global experience as an oilman to his new job. The expectation was that he would join a talented troika (with Defense Secretary Mattis and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster) to temper Trump's worst foreign policy impulses.

Didn't happen.

"Tillerson is as big a problem as Trump is," says a former U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Gerald Feierstein, now director of gulf affairs at the Middle East Institute. "He has no respect for the mission of the State Department. He's distant, disinterested in having any interaction with employees."

The oilman has displayed the same disdain for American diplomats as his boss, failing to protest the size of the proposed cutbacks; he is conducting a "reorganization" that will paralyze the department until mid-2018.

Only three nominations have been put forward to permanently fill 22 assistant secretary positions, which include the top department posts for critical regions like the Near East, East Asia and Afghanistan. Instead, these positions are being filled by "acting" heads, whose clout is limited by their temporary status. The suspicion among diplomats is that the White House wants most positions filled with political appointees, not department professionals.

The posts of special envoys for climate change, for conflict and stabilization operations, and for nuclear nonproliferation (among many others) remain vacant, with the suspicion they will never be filled.

At the same time, no nominations have been put forward for dozens of key ambassadorships, including to critical countries such as South Korea. Nor are current ambassadors spared the disdain for their profession that Trump and Tillerson appear to share.

The secretary has become notorious for his reluctance to meet with U.S. ambassadors in the countries he's visited or even when they return home to accompany foreign leaders visiting the United States.

As a consequence, morale at the State Department is sagging, and many of the most talented diplomats are quitting or retiring. Such expertise takes decades to develop and now is being thrown away.

Moreover, there is another, less noticed, consequence of denuding the department of its talent. Foreign officials and ambassadors in Washington are realizing it's pointless to speak to "acting" heads of departments or U.S. ambassadors. Many decide that their only avenue is to try to curry favor directly with the White House, ideally with First Son-in-Law Jared Kushner, as if this were a banana republic.

Some diplomats to whom I've spoken excuse Tillerson because they think he's still trying to find his footing with the White House. He has had his own problems with Trump, who publicly undercut the secretary's efforts to patch up a messy confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Qatar (the confrontation was actually encouraged by Trump). And the president has outsourced key Mideast tasks to Kushner, who has proven to be woefully unsuited and way in over his head.

But the president's fascination with things military ignores the fact that America's most immediate challenges demand diplomatic solutions if war is to be prevented. That includes resolving the impasse with North Korea, re-examining the nuclear deal with Tehran and negotiating over how to end the sectarian conflict in Syria that spawned the Islamic State.

Such diplomacy can't be finessed by a real estate mogul or a lone oilman, no matter their illusions. It will require input from professionals with on-the-ground experience who can help Tillerson develop a policy process along with negotiating terms.

That, in turn, requires a secretary of state who understands he can't act solo, and must encourage the best and brightest in his department and stand up for its survival. It also requires a secretary who is willing to stand up to Trump, or join in the aforementioned troika that may be able to penetrate the president's tweet-drenched delusions.

Tillerson should study Mattis' 2013 warning to legislators to view diplomacy in terms of a cost-benefit ratio. "The more that we put into the State Department's diplomacy," the general said, "the less we have to put into a military budget as we deal with the outcome of an apparent American withdrawal from the international scene."

Although Trump will deny it, that warning is even more relevant today. The denigration of diplomats is viewed abroad as a sign of a new U.S. isolationism and a signal for adversaries to take advantage. If Tillerson believes that to be an incorrect message, he'd better change course.

Trump's terrible choices on North Korea

By ANDREW MALCOLM
Special to McClatchy

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @ AHMalcolm.

While political Washington indulged its obsession over the latest toxic Trump turmoil, North Korea launched another intercontinental ballistic missile test. It was the second in July and 12th this year and just the latest chapter in the isolated nation's relentless quest for a weapon of mass destruction to deliver upon the United States.

This is not an idle mid-summer fantasy. Fourteen years ago, U.S. intelligence overestimated Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. But it has consistently underestimated North Korean skill and speed in devising the means to fulfill its promise of mass death to America.

Last week, intel warned that a two-or three-year window before Pyongyang could accomplish its intercontinental death delivery system was actually—oh, my!—one year. The communist country could be ready by this time next summer or soon after. But that timeline could be wrong too.

In stepped-up tests, the Air Force is about to launch over the Pacific another unarmed Minuteman III from Vandenberg to verify the ICBM's effectiveness, readiness and accuracy.

Trump the campaigner vowed to shun new foreign fights. He's relied on China exerting its enormous leverage to rein in Kim Jung Un. Worth the try. But he just tweeted his disappointment: "China could easily solve this problem!"

Now, Congress has levied additional photo-op sanctions on the North, as well as Iran and Russia. Who cares? Sanctions have accomplished diddly. Is Russia still in Crimea? Is Iran still pursuing nukes and ICBMs?

Sanctions have become the West's go-to cover for inaction but have failed to cause course changes. So more sanctions will?

Hopefully, secret plans, yet to be leaked, exist. H.R. McMaster says Trump has ordered the national security team to develop a range of options for the North Korean threat.

Let's see: Attack or acquiesce? A July Fox News Poll found 55 percent of Americans believe military force will be necessary to halt Pyongyang's weapons program, up from 51 percent in April.

A string of U.S. administrations have naively or disingenuously tried the negotiation route to no lasting or productive end. Defense Secretary James Mattis says the era of that "strategic patience" has expired. Unfortunately, so has the margin for error or hesitation.

Here's the problem: The U.S. is developing a promising missile defense system for a limited attack. But it has no proven go-to defense.

ICBMs are vulnerable briefly at launch. They soar thousands of miles into space, then plummet like meteors upon their targets. Last week's Korean test, it appeared, could have reached most states.

It needs a miniaturized warhead and one that can withstand atmospheric re-entry. The North is also developing submarine-based missiles, which could be launched closer in-shore.

Like any president, Trump avers national security is his highest priority. No president could leave U.S. fate to the nuclear whim of a plump, unstable dictator who executes opponents with anti-aircraft guns.

So, what to do? A pre-emptive strike in one or two places risks catastrophic responses by the North and perhaps China. Some 26 million South Koreans—and 30,500 American troops—reside within 45 miles of the grossly-misnamed demilitarized zone.

Theoretically, special operations forces could infiltrate and take out Kim. But be careful what you wish for. That assumes the replacement general would be any less loopy, more amenable to reason after 70 years of hermit-kingdom isolation, malnutrition and delusional propaganda.

One complication is South Korea's new president, Moon Jae-in, who seeks reconciliation with the North. A fond Korean dream. Good luck with that right now. He halted deployment of a modern U.S. anti-missile defense system as a sop to Kim.

Is there any other leverage on China that some deal-maker could use? So far, Beijing doesn't really mind abiding a thorn in the Americans' side. It is reportedly strengthening defenses along its Korean border against invasion, most likely by millions of North Korean refugees fleeing conflict.

But wait. China does abhor the idea of a nuclear-armed Japan or South Korea. U.S. nukes were removed from the South in the 1990s. What if, to encourage more productive Chinese cooperation to pressure Kim, Trump were to start talks with those two Asian allies about developing their own nuclear weapons?

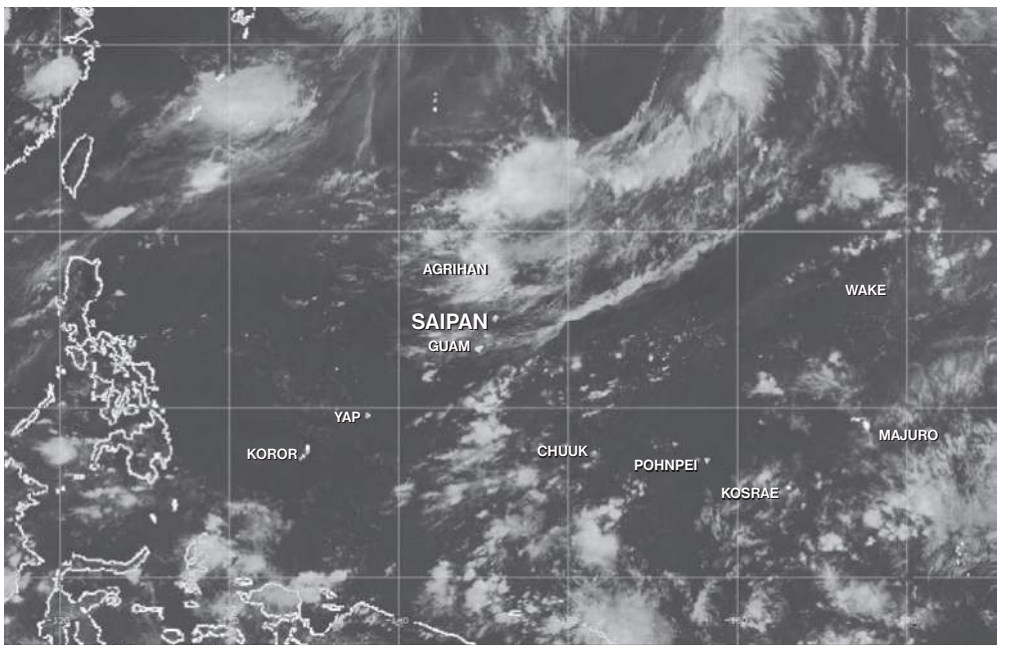
It seems counterintuitive and dangerous to combat one nation's nuclear weapons development by encouraging others to get their own. It is. But all reasonable alternatives are foreclosed now. And the countdown is underway.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:05 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the inherited forecast. Light winds are again expected today. These light winds combined with surface heating will allow some island convection to develop today. A fairly dry mid-level shown on the latest sounding data will help to keep thunderstorms from forming through today. By Tuesday, increasing mid-level moisture will be more favorable for stronger island showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 50°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Showers	64° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	91° / 81°
Paris	Showers	73° / 55°
Busan	Rain	84° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	90° / 73°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 65°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:13 AM	LOW TIDE	1.03
7:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
2:25 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
9:06 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:08 AM	7:06 PM
Wednesday	-	7:00 AM	7:50 PM
Thursday	-	7:52 AM	8:33 PM
Friday	-	8:44 AM	9:16 PM
Saturday	-	9:37 AM	9:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Research: Nutrition information, food demo affect eating habits of children

As part of a summer fellowship program, four Northern Marianas College students have been engaged in the past several weeks in research projects that examine various aspects of children's health and nutrition.

The Child Health Assessment in the Pacific Undergraduate Summer Fellowship Program, which is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, provides a summer training and research opportunity for undergraduate students—known as fellows—working toward degrees in nutrition, nursing, early childhood education, public health, and other related degrees.

One of the research projects, led by NMC sophomore and CHAP fellow Andrea Loste, evaluated changes in children's knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs toward fruit and vegetable intake before and after participating in nutrition education activities.

Loste's research involved conducting surveys and handing out food frequency questionnaires and food recognition forms to assess fruit and vegetable dietary intake and nutrition knowledge after participants attended nutrition classes and viewed two food demonstrations.

"I was able to conclude from the research that nutrition education positively influenced participants' beliefs toward fruits and vegetable intake and that participation in food demonstrations increased the likelihood of participants' fruit and vegetable consumption and inclination to eat the food made during both food demonstrations," said Loste.

She also concluded that healthy eating among children will likely be more successful if paired with nutrition education and food demonstrations.

Other CHAP fellows included NMC students Jesse Deleon Guerrero, Maria Dizon, and Allysha Lloren. Their research will also be highlighted throughout the week.

The objectives of the CHAP Summer Fellowship Program, one of the training components of the Children's Healthy Living Program, are threefold: building Pacific regional capacity in early childhood nutrition and health assessment; developing and sustaining the Pacific network of individuals working to monitor and prevent early childhood obesity and health disparities; and working to develop training in early childhood nutrition and health assessment.

"We are proud of the research that the CHAP fellows have completed with the guidance from their mentors," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

According to CNMI CHAP lead Patricia Coleman, "Becoming a CHAP fellow is a competitive process. This is CHAP's second year, and once again, NMC had many excellent applicants for the fellowship."

Students from Chaminade University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of Guam also participated in the CHAP program.

Previous fellows include Robert Suzuki Jr. and Rachel Reyes. Suzuki is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at UH Manoa. Reyes just graduated from NMC in spring 2017 with her bachelor's degree in Education.

The fellows are mentored by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. renal dietitian Jessica Delos Reyes and NMC Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Service team members Rose Castro, Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, and Coleman.

All CHAP summer fellows receive $2,100 stipend, travel to Hawaii for a seven-day training opportunity at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, a scholarship to cover tuition and fees for four credits of coursework through the University of Hawaii Outreach College, and resources and support to complete a mentored summer field experience related to diet or anthropometry field assessment techniques. The CNMI CHAP Program is housed at Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Service. ***(NMC)***

Northern Marianas College student Andrea Loste, left, is joined by her mentor, Jessica Delos Reyes, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. renal dietitian, after presenting her research on child nutrition and the impact of nutrition information and food demonstrations. NMC

CNMI
WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN
COME ONE, COME ALL!
JOIN US AS WE
CELEBRATE WIC'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND
WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2017!
EVENT INCLUDES: 5K WALK AND MINI CARNIVAL GAMES FOR THE KIDS
WHERE: MINATCHOM ATDAO, SUSUPE
WHEN: AUGUST 12, 2017 • 6:00AM TO 10:00AM
FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS, TSHIRTS AND TOTE BAGS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!)
TICKETS
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CONGRATULATIONS!

Teen hits $10,000 jackpot

Another lucky individual turned some change into a $10,000 jackpot prize.

Koblerville resident Eddie C. Sablan went to Han Nam Store last Thursday to buy betel nuts. He then used his change to buy one scratch card and presto, the 18-year-old hit the jackpot.

"I saw a lady buying a card, so I thought I should give in a try, too," said Sablan, who bought Northern Marianas Sports Association's lottery card for the first time.

He took the next card (Money Bags game) that the lady did not buy and scratched first the Game 2 portion of the card or the "Beat the Dealers" part. He lost. He then turned to Game 1 and scraped the first two columns, which showed the two $10,000. Sablan got excited, but then became disappointed as he did not see what he was looking for when he scratched the next three numbers. He continued and this time the remaining $10,000 appeared on the second column, third row, and suddenly that excitement came back as he raised his hands in celebration.

"It was surreal. I was not expecting to win anything this big. I thought I would be lucky to win a few more dollars," said Sablan, who considered the jackpot prize as his belated birthday gift.

The Saipan Southern High School student just turned 18 last May 24, making the age requirement for NMSA lottery winners.

Sablan got his $10,000 check from NMSA Lottery manager Anicia Lisua the same day he won the jackpot prize, while the store owner of Han Nam received $1,000 as a bonus for selling the winning ticket.

The teen will share some of his winnings to his family members and save the rest. Sablan is the third $10,000 winner from the NMASA Lottery, which was established in 2015 to raise funds for CNMI athletes and the association's programs. The first winner—Luneta Gaso—also bought the lucky scratch card from a change, while second winner Qiong Xiao Lao was bored because of the slow business in the store she manages and decided to kill time by buying scratchies.

Other winners in NMSA Lottery had their own tales to tell.

One hoped to win some money to purchase school supplies for his children. He got $1,000 and had a sigh of relief with the opening of the new school year just around the corner.

Then there's a housewife who had her mother mom come over from Palau to Saipan for a medical consultation. She spent a big amount for her mother's medical needs and still wanted to give her folks some money to bring home, but she had insufficient funds. The housewife bought scratchies a few days before her mother flew back to Palau and won $1,000, which she gave to her some as a send-off gift.

A tourist was intrigued with the NMSA Lottery poster on display in a store. He inquired about the scratchies and then bought a couple of tickets. He won $500 and used them to buy souvenirs and gifts from his lucky trip to Saipan.

For only $2 you can win up to $10,000! Get your tickets now! GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!!

Busines

As eels grow in value, US govt clamps down on poaching

BREWER, Maine (AP)—Changes in the worldwide sushi industry have turned live baby American eels into a commodity that can fetch more than $2,000 a pound at the dock, but the big demand and big prices have spawned a black market that wildlife officials say is jeopardizing the species.

Law enforcement authorities have launched a crackdown on unlicensed eel fishermen and illicit sales along the East Coast.

Although not a well-known seafood item like the Maine lobster, wriggling baby eels, or elvers, are a fishery worth many millions of dollars. Elvers often are sold to Asian aquaculture companies to be raised to maturity and have become a linchpin of the sushi supply chain.

But licensed U.S. fishermen complain poaching has become widespread, as prices have climbed in recent years. In response, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies are investigating clandestine harvesting and sales.

Operation Broken Glass, a reference to the eels' glassy skin, has resulted in 15 guilty pleas for illegal trafficking of about $4 million worth of elvers. Two people are under indictment, and more indictments are expected.

In Maine, more than 400 licensed fishermen make their living fishing for elvers in rivers such as the Penobscot in Brewer and the Passagassawakeag in Belfast every spring. They say law enforcement is vital to protecting the eels and the volatile industry.

Randy Bushey, of Steuben, has been fishing for elvers since 1993. He said he saw his income balloon from as little as $5,000 per year in the 1990s to more than $350,000 in 2012. He said tighter quotas mean he's earning less these days, and in the most recent season he made about $57,000.

"I've seen the best, and I've seen the worst," Steuben said. "I want to see it preserved. I want to see it straightened out."

The elvers are legally harvested in the U.S. only in Maine and South Carolina. The American eel fishery was typically worth $1 million to $3 million per year until 2011, when the economics of the industry changed. Asian and European eel stocks dried up, and the value of American eels grew to more than $40 million in 2012 because of demand in China, South Korea and other Asian countries.

Investigators also turned their eyes to poaching in 2011, the Department of Justice told The Associated Press. The investigation of people who catch, sell or export elvers illegally has ranged from Maine to South Carolina; a New York seafood distributor was among those netted.

In one case, federal prosecutors said, three men pleaded guilty in November 2016 to trafficking more than $740,000 worth of elvers harvested illegally from the Cooper River in the Charleston, South Carolina, area. In another, Richard Austin pleaded guilty in federal court in Norfolk, Virginia, to trafficking more than $189,000 in illegally harvested elvers from 2013 to 2015.

The federal agencies involved in the poaching investigations say there's no end date for their probe. The Department of Justice declined to speculate on how many poachers there are and how many arrests are expected. A conviction for violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits illegal wildlife trade, can carry a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of as much as $250,000.

Investigators go undercover to track poachers, posing as people illegally fishing for elvers. They also follow eel migrations, hoping to catch illegal fishermen on the spot. Investigators also track catch records, which are required by states, to look for possible illegal fishing and selling along the supply chain.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Prosecutors ask court to imprison Samsung heir for 12 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors have recommended imprisoning a billionaire Samsung heir for 12 years if he is convicted of bribery and other crimes in a national corruption scandal. Prosecutors' recommendation Monday concludes the four-month-long hearing over the allegations against Lee Jae-yong. The 49-year-old vice chair at Samsung Electronics was indicted in February on charges including offering $38 million in bribes to a friend of then-President Park Geun-hye to seek government help in a merger that strengthened his control over Samsung. Park was removed from office and is being tried separately. Lee has denied all charges and distanced himself from Samsung's now-disbanded secretive strategy office that oversaw the merger at the center of the scandal. The charges could entail at least five years in prison if Lee is convicted.

German governor defends asking VW to vet speech on automaker

BERLIN (AP)—The governor of one of Germany's biggest states says he allowed Volkswagen to vet a 2015 speech about the automaker's diesel scandal. German weekly Bild am Sonntag has reported that VW, which is part-owned by Lower Saxony state, suggested removing some of the harsh criticism of its emissions trickery. Governor Stephan Weil's office confirmed Sunday that the speech was sent to VW's chief lobbyist and lawyers, but denied softening his criticism of the company as a result. Weil's office said the aim was "to ensure that no legally or factually inaccurate statements were made" because of pending lawsuits in the U.S. The incident adds to pressure on Weil, whose center-left coalition of Social Democrats and Greens face an early regional election after a lawmaker's defection cost his government its majority.

Europe egg scare: Belgium discovered contamination in June

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgian food safety authorities began investigating possible pesticide contamination in eggs in early June, several weeks before the public was made aware of a food safety scare now affecting several European countries. Supermarkets have pulled millions of eggs from shelves after pesticide Fipronil was found in Dutch and Belgian poultry farms. Kathy Brison of the Belgian food safety agency said Sunday that a Belgian farm alerted authorities to a possible contamination in June, and they began investigating and alerted Belgian prosecutors. German authorities are frustrated by the apparent delay in informing European neighbors. German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt plans to speak to his Belgian counterpart about the issue Monday. Brison said Belgian authorities thought it was an isolated incident and didn't realize the scale of the problem until late July.

Office of the Public Auditor

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-OPA-01

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, OPA AUDIT MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSERS.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR/MANAGER

/s/ CHRISTIAAN WALLACE
PROCUREMENT OFFICER/OFFICE MANAGER

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-664-4750
Website: www.cnmischolarship.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, August 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Old Business
  a. Bylaws
  b. Senate Bill 20-33 (WICHE PSEP)
  c. New CSO Program SY2016.2017
V. New Business
  a. CW Funds
  b. FY '18 Budget
  c. New CSO Programs for SY2017/2018
VI. Executive Session
VII. CSO Director Updates
VIII. Announcements & Next Meeting Date
IX. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
August 9, 2017 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
IV. Executive Session
  A. PHI Pharmacy Contract – PL 8-41 Section 13 (2).
V. Adjournment.

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756

Early Intervention Services
"The Key to the Future"

CNMI Public School System
Interagency Coordinating Council

AGENDA

Friday, August 11, 2017
9am – 11 am
CDAC Office, Garapan

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of the Agenda
IV. Review/ Adopt Minutes
V. Part C Determination
  - FFY 2017 Grant Award
  - SSIP Activities
  - Upcoming Child find activities
VI. Open Discussion
VII. Meeting Adjourned

Nation

Pence slams report on possible 2020 presidential groundwork

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—Vice President Mike Pence has pushed back against a news report suggesting he is laying groundwork for a possible presidential bid in 2020 if President Donald Trump does not run.

In a statement released by the White House, Pence said Sunday's story in The New York Times "is disgraceful and offensive to me, my family, and our entire team." He added that "the allegations in this article are categorically false."

The formal rebuttal of a news report by the vice president was an unusual move. In it, Pence also said his team will "focus all our efforts to advance the president's agenda and see him re-elected in 2020."

Pence

The report details efforts of several Republicans looking ahead to 2020, calling it a "shadow campaign." It notes Pence's political schedule and active fundraising, though it also says unnamed advisers have signaled that he'd only run if Trump doesn't.

The article noted Pence has set up a fundraising committee. Called the Great America Committee, it can accept checks of up to $5,000 from individual donors. Pence raised about $1 million at a Washington fundraiser last month, attended by dozens of lawmakers and featuring remarks from White House adviser Ivanka Trump.

Trump has not suggested he won't seek a second term. But his first six months in office have been turbulent, marked by staff infighting, legislative struggles and a series of investigations.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway also dismissed the report and said Pence is readying to run in 2020 "for re-election as vice president."

"Vice President Pence is a very loyal, very dutiful, but also incredibly effective vice president, and active vice president, with this president," said Conway on ABC's "This Week." ''He is a peer to the president in the West Wing."

New York Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said in an emailed statement: "We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself."

Minnesota mosque explosion 'deeper and scarier' than threats

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in suburban Minneapolis, like other U.S. mosques, occasionally receives threatening calls and emails. But leaders say they're more frightened after a weekend attack in which an explosive shattered windows and damaged a room as worshippers prepared for morning prayers.

"We feel like it's much deeper and scarier than like something random," Mohamed Omar, the center's executive director, said Sunday. "It's so scary."

No one was hurt in the blast, which happened around 5 a.m. Saturday. Windows of the imam's office were shattered, either by the blast or by an object thrown through them. The FBI is seeking suspects and trying to determine whether the incident was a hate crime.

Gov. Mark Dayton, who joined other public officials and community leaders for a meeting inside the building Sunday, described the bombing as "so wretched" and "not Minnesota."

"This is an act of terrorism. This is against the law in America," Dayton said at a news conference afterward, the Star Tribune reported .

Besides serving as a place of worship and community center, the mosque in Bloomington, just south of Minneapolis, has a fitness center, gymnasiums for boys and girls, a football field and adjoins a city park, Omar said. He estimates the mosque holds up to 300 worshippers for Friday prayers. The community center also hosts computer classes, a basketball league, religious classes, lectures and other events.

"It's a place that a family can come and get everything they need," Omar said.

The mosque opened in 2011 at the site of a former elementary school in the suburb of about 85,000 and serves people primarily from the area's large Somali community. Minnesota is home to the largest Somali community in the U.S., roughly 57,000 people, according to the latest census figures.

Some residents opposed the center's opening, and complaints have been made about parking, noise and traffic, the Star Tribune reported. Omar said the center gets along with "92, 93 percent" of its neighbors.

And while the mosque has received threatening calls and messages, Deputy Bloomington Police Chief Mike Hartley said Sunday he was unware of any hate crimes reported at the center.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: FISCAL OFFICER
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 28 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVERVIEW:

This is an exempt professional position responsible for the management of office/program fiscal systems including but not limited to all accounts receivables and program expenditures. The Fiscal Officer is selected by and reports to the Executive Director and works under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✔ Bachelors Degree (B.A. and/or B.S.) in a field related to work of this position or no less than 120 credit hours from an accredited post-secondary school in areas related to the work of this position;
- ✔ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of federal and/or state grants management systems and any applicable policies, laws and other relevant regulations; and
- ✔ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of accounting and/or auditing concepts as they apply to state and federal government funds.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Guala Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. Deadline for submission of applications packet is on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5pm. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org.

NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

CABRAS MARINE CORPORATION

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Assistant Port Engineer

Primary Duties & Responsibilities
- Ensures that all vessels exceed the minimum standards for the USCG and all Federal, State, and local safety standards.
- Evaluates operation of marine equipment.
- Maintain a comprehensive preventative maintenance program for all equipment
- Maintains and coordinates repair of marine machinery and equipment for installation on vessels.
- Inspects marine equipment and machinery in order to draw up work requests and job specifications.
- Reviews work requests, and compare them with previous work completed on Vessels in order to ensure that costs are economically sound.
- Prepares technical reports for use by engineering, marine operations, and upper management.
- Procures materials needed to repair marine equipment and machinery.
- Acts as liaisons between vessels' Captains and Engineers in order to ensure that schedules and budgets are maintained, and that vessels are operated safely and efficiently.
- Checks, tests, and maintains automatic controls and alarm systems.
- Maintains accurate records of engineering department activities, including expense records and details of equipment maintenance and repairs.
- Schedules machine overhauls and the servicing of electrical, heating, ventilation, refrigeration, water, and sewage systems.
- Supervises other engineers, maintenance personnel and crewmembers, and trains them for routine and emergency duties.
- Maintains all equipment to manufacturer's specifications.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Key Technical Skills & Knowledge
Engineering and Technology — Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services. **Mechanical —** Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. **Mathematics —** Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Physics —** Knowledge and prediction of physical principles, laws, their interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic and sub-atomic structures and processes. **Design —** Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models. **Critical Thinking —** Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems. **Active Listening —** Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times. **Deductive Reasoning —** The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.

Minimum Requirements
- Minimum of a High School Diploma/GED required.
- A minimum of 5-years sailing experience in engineering capacity or equivalent experience in Port Engineering or Engineering Management shore side
- Strong background interfacing with USCG and Class personnel and requirements
- Must understand all Federal, State, and local safety standards.
- Ability to read, write and speak English fluently.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Excel, Word)
- Able and willing to develop advanced technology and computer skills, proven team-player, strong communication skills, self-motivator, able to travel as necessary, high mechanical aptitude.
- Must understand vessel drawings and blue prints.
- Must be willing and available for duty at such hours, day or night as may be required in order to maintain continuous operations.
- Must pass a Physical Exam and Drug and Alcohol Test
- Must be able to obtain a TWIC Card
- Must be able to obtain access on U. S. Naval Base
- Must submit Original Police & Court Clearance within 30 days
- TB Test (within one year)

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
- Education: Bachelor's degree (strongly prefer Maritime Academy graduate)
- Experience: 3 years in Port Engineering capacity
- Skills/Software: ABS Nautical Systems
- Licenses/Certifications: DDE 4000 or higher license
- Traits: Mechanical technician capacity, involvement in trade associations

Working Conditions
The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly exposed to fumes or airborne particles. The employee is frequently exposed to wet and/or humid conditions; moving mechanical parts; high, precarious places; and outside weather conditions. The employee is occasionally exposed to toxic or caustic chemicals, extreme heat, and risk of electrical shock. The noise level in the work environment is usually very loud. Protective clothing may be worn.

Physical Demands
The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Work is performed approximately twenty-five percent of the time in an office setting. Approximately seventy-five percent of the time will be required to visit and/or ride vessels or the industrial sites. Work involves surveys of shipboard equipment and systems and shipboard working conditions as well as shipboard assessments of industrial and ship's force work progress. Must be in good health and without impairments which would preclude the ability to climb vertical ladders and work from elevated work surfaces, embark and disembark marine vessels, enter confined spaces, exposure to high temperature and/or high noise-level areas. Must be sufficiently computer literate with demonstrable ability to use word processing, electronic spreadsheets, presentation graphics, e-mail, and other software products routinely used by type desk and maintenance management personnel in the performance of their duties. Ability to travel domestically and internationally.

Please apply by mail only to: **CABRAS MARINE CORP.**
Attn: HR Department
PMB 170 PPP Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950

Asia

A welcome boost from China to global pressure on North Korea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A global pressure campaign on North Korea propelled by sharp new U.N. sanctions received a welcome boost Sunday from China, the North's economic lifeline, as Beijing called on its neighbor to halt its missile and nuclear tests.

The Trump administration cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation, while putting it on notice that the U.S. would be watching closely to ensure it didn't ease up on North Korea if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere. But there were no signs the U.S. would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations.

The diplomatic wrangling sought to build on the sweeping new North Korea sanctions passed by the U.N. Security Council a day earlier—the strongest in a generation, the U.S. said.

As diplomats gathered in the Philippines for an annual regional meeting, President Donald Trump was cheering the move. He cited the "very big financial impact" of the sanctions and noted optimistically that both China and Russia had joined in the unanimous vote. On Sunday, following a late-night conversation with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Trump tweeted: "Just completed call with President Moon of South Korea. Very happy and impressed with 15-0 United Nations vote on North Korea sanctions."

In characteristically understated fashion, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said of the U.N. action, "It was a good outcome."

For the U.S., it was a long-awaited sign of progress for Trump's strategy of trying to enlist Beijing's help to squeeze North Korea diplomatically and economically. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, meeting with North Korea's top diplomat during the gathering in Manila, urged the North to "maintain calm" despite the U.N. vote.

AP

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, left, is greeted by his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi prior to their bilateral meeting in the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and its Dialogue Partners Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017 in suburban Pasay city, south Manila, Philippines.

"Do not violate the U.N.'s decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests," Wang said, in an unusually direct admonition.

Tillerson did not meet with North Korea's envoy, Ri Yong Ho. In fact, on his first day in Manila, Tillerson appeared to go out of his way to avoid crossing paths with Ri.

In remarks to reporters Monday morning, Tillerson said the best signal North Korea could give that it was prepared for negotiations with the U.S. would be to halt its missile launches.

Tillerson, in his most specific outline to date of what preconditions the U.S. had for talks with Pyongyang, said stopping the launches would be the "first and strongest signal." But he also said it was not as simple as North Korea stopping launches for a few days or weeks. He wouldn't give a concrete timeframe but said that the U.S. would "know it when we see it."

The U.S. has "other means of communication" open to North Korea if the country wants to express to the U.S. a desire to talk, Tillerson said, but didn't offer specifics.

Though Beijing repeated its call for the United States and North Korea to resume talks, the U.S. said that was still premature, and rejected yet again a Chinese call for the U.S. to freeze joint military exercises with South Korea in exchange for the North halting nuclear development. Pyongyang views the military exercises as rehearsals for an invasion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar says no crimes against humanity in Rakhine violence

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The Myanmar government's inquiry into violence in northern Rakhine state last year that forced tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh and led to U.N. accusations of crimes against humanity by the army has concluded that no such crimes happened. Speaking at the release of the Rakhine Investigative Commission's final report, Vice President Myint Swe—a former general—told reporters Sunday that "there is no evidence of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights claimed." He also denied charges that there had been gang rapes by the military as it swept through Rohingya villages in a security clearance operation. The army was reacting to deadly attacks against border police posts by a previously unknown insurgent group in October 2016 in the Maungdaw area of Rakhine.

Australia's ruling party meets to resolve gay marriage rift

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's ruling party will attempt to resolve bitter internal differences over gay marriage at a special meeting on Monday aimed at containing a rift that threatens the prime minister's leadership. Finding policy agreement on the issue is a test of prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's authority over his government, which has trailed the center-left opposition Labor Party for months in opinion polls. The conservative Liberal Party-led coalition was narrowly re-elected at elections in July last year with a promise to let voters decide whether Australia should recognize same-sex marriage through a popular vote. But the Senate would not allow the so-called plebiscite, which would have cost 160 million Australian dollars ($127 million) and the result could have been ignored by lawmakers when deciding how to vote on gay marriage legislation in the Parliament.

World

Maduro vows 'maximum penalty' for attackers on Venezuela base

VALENCIA, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro vowed that a band of anti-government fighters who attacked a Venezuelan army base will get the "maximum penalty" as his administration roots out his enemies.

Troops killed two of the 20 intruders who slipped into the Paramacay base in the central city of Valencia early Sunday, apparently intent on fomenting a military uprising, Maduro said in his weekly broadcast on state television.

One of the invaders was injured, seven captured and 10 got away, the embattled leader said.

"We know where they are headed and all of our military and police force is deployed," Maduro said. He said he would ask for "the maximum penalty for those who participated in this terrorist attack."

The attack came as Venezuela's controversial constitutional assembly is getting down to work, signaling in its initial decrees last week that delegates will target Maduro's foes as he had warned.

The new assembly, whose powers supersede all other branches of government, voted to remove the nation's outspoken chief prosecutor Saturday. On Sunday, Maduro announced that a new "truth commission" created by the assembly had been installed to impose justice on those fueling the unrest that has wracked the country since early April.

The constitutional assembly is expected to meet again Tuesday, while lawmakers in the opposition-controlled National Assembly scheduled their own session for Monday, vowing to continue fulfilling their responsibilities no matter what the assembly might do. Leaders of opposition groups, which boycotted the July 30 assembly election, called for renewed protests on Monday, though turnout at demonstrations has been sparse in recent days.

Residents who live near the army base in Valencia attacked Sunday said they began hearing bursts of gunfire around 4:30 a.m.

A video showing more than a dozen men dressed in military fatigues, some carrying rifles, began circulating widely on social media around that time. In the recording, a man who identified himself as Capt. Juan Caguaripano said the men were members of the military who oppose Maduro's socialist government and called on military units to declare themselves in open rebellion.

"This is not a coup d'etat," the man said. "This is a civic and military action to re-establish the constitutional order."

Maduro said 20 men entered the base and managed to reach the weapons depot undetected, but then an alarm sounded alerting troops to the incursion. He said 10 of the invaders fled, some carrying off arms, while those left behind exchanged gunfire with soldiers until about 8 a.m. before all were either killed or captured.

"Today we had to defeat terrorism with bullets," Maduro said.

Nearby residents who saw the dissident group's video online gathered around the military base chanting "Freedom!" Other protests also emerged around Valencia into the afternoon. Troops dispersed protesters with tear gas and a man was fatally shot at a demonstration less than a mile from the base, said Haydee Franco, coordinating secretary of the opposition Progressive Advance party.

US to respond by Sept. 1 to Russia's expulsion of diplomats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Trump administration has yet to decide how to respond to Russia's move to expel hundreds of American diplomats, but plans to deliver a response to Moscow by Sept. 1, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday.

A day after sitting down in the Philippines with Russia's top diplomat, Tillerson said he'd asked "clarifying questions" about the Kremlin's retaliation announced last month following new sanctions passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump. The Trump administration has struggled to determine how the move will affect the U.S. diplomatic presence in Russia, as well as the broader implications for the troubled relationship between the nuclear-armed powers.

Despite the Russian move, which seemed to plunge the two countries even further into acrimony, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emerged from the meeting declaring a readiness for more engagement with the U.S. on North Korea, Syria and Ukraine, among other issues. Tillerson broadly echoed that sentiment, saying the two countries had critical national security issues to discuss despite deep disagreements on some matters.

"I don't think it is useful to just cut everything off on one single issue," Tillerson said following his first meeting with Lavrov since the new sanctions were imposed. "These are two very large countries and we should find places that we can work together, let's try to work together. Places we have our differences, we're going to have to continue to find a way to address those."

Tillerson also said that Russia has been showing "some willingness" to start talking about a resolution to the crisis in Ukraine, devoid of real progress for years. That assessment came as Lavrov announced that the Trump administration had committed to sending its new special envoy for Ukraine negotiations, Kurt Volker, to Moscow to discuss next steps.

Yet several obstacles hang over any attempt to pursue a more functional U.S.-Russia relationship: the new U.S. sanctions, Russia's retaliatory move to expel diplomats, and the ongoing U.S. Justice Department investigation into Russia's election meddling and potential Trump campaign collusion.

Fearing Trump might move inappropriately to ease sanctions on Russia, Congress last month passed new legislation that both added more sanctions and made it harder for the president to lift them. Trump and Tillerson opposed the legislation, but facing a likely veto override, Trump begrudgingly signed the bill.

Moscow's response to the sanctions was to announce it would force the U.S. to cut its embassy and consulate staff in Russia by 755 people. That move stoked confusion in Washington, given that the U.S. is believed to have far fewer than 755 American employees in Russia.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

2017 FORD FOCUS RS

A HOOLIGAN CAR FOR THE REST OF US

The 2017 Ford Focus RS is fitted with a manual transmission and a 2.3-liter Ecoboost engine that makes a shuddering 350 horsepower and 350 pound-feet of torque. TNS

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Southern California is home to some of the automobile industry's most creative car customizers. It's not unusual to see tuners, hooligan cars or even Hoonigan copies, like the ones custom built by YouTube star Ken Block, carving up the LA concrete.

The Focus RS, the performance version of Ford's successful line of Focus hatchbacks, is a great car for this category.

Fitted with a manual transmission and a 2.3-liter Ecoboost engine that makes a shuddering 350 horsepower and 350 pound-feet of torque, it's a shameless bad boy of an automobile, good for absolutely nothing except having fun.

The entry-level Focus is a sedate sedan, a four-door, five-passenger family car. It has a starting suggested retail price of $17,225, gets terrific fuel economy and could be a dictionary definition for basic, boring transportation.

But it makes a marvelous platform for the performance upgrades that turn the boring Focus into a hot hatch.

Upgrade the 2.0-liter engine, get rid of the automatic transmission, stiffen up the suspension, add a spoiler, and suddenly it's badass — a wolf, wearing sheep's clothing, ready to tear up the town.

The RS version presents a very engaged driving experience. Riding on low-profile Michelin Super Sport summer tires, the car sits squat and square and close to the ground. It weighs a very manageable 3,459 pounds, Ford says.

The combination of a tight, six-speed gearbox, stiff clutch pedal and firm suspension, paired with the roaring turbocharged engine and Brembo front disc brakes, can make a run to the supermarket feel like a real adventure.

And for the track, the RS comes with adjustable suspension settings, launch control and driving modes that include Normal, Track and Drift settings and adjustable traction control.

There's even a Track section in the owners' manual, giving tips about tire pressure, oil temperature and other matters not likely to become an issue if you're stuck in traffic on the freeway.

I don't drift, and I didn't get to the track, but the precision of the electronic steering and the stickiness of the all-wheel-drive system become really apparent on a windy road, where the RS carves like a far more expensive car. The RS humbled me with how much better it is at high speed cornering than I am.

Around city streets, the RS can behave like a gentleman. The basic car comes standard with tilt steering wheel, leather-wrapped steering wheel, dual power point plug-ins and 60-40 split rear seats, and wears comfortable Recaro upholstery.

It's also fitted with fog lamps, rear-view camera and push-button start.

The model I borrowed also had a wild Nitrous Blue Quad-Coat paint job (a $695 option), 19-inch alloy wheels (18-inch are standard), and heated front seat and steering wheel—all of which pushed the retail price to $40,255.

That's a lot of money for a Ford Focus. But it's not a lot of money for a BMW, Audi, Alfa Romeo or Porsche, and the Focus RS does most of the things those cars do, and some of them almost as well—for two-thirds or half the price.

Since it's a Ford, it won't have the curb appeal of those European models. But who are you trying to impress—your friends, or yourself?

Charles Fleming writes about automobiles and motorcycles for the Los Angeles Times' *Business section. Readers may send him email at charles.fleming@latimes.com.*

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Ford Focus RS

- **Quick take:** It's a hooligan hot wheels car
- **Highs:** Stick shift, stiff suspension create driving fun
- **Lows:** They can also create commuter discomfort
- **Vehicle type:** Four-door, five-passenger hatchback
- **Base price:** $36,775
- **Price as tested:** $40,225
- **Powertrain:** 2.36-liter, four-cylinder, turbo-charged gasoline engine
- **Transmission:** AWD, six-speed manual
- **Horsepower:** 350
- **Torque:** 350 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy rating:** 19 miles per gallon city / 25 highway / 22 combined

Under the Hood: Watch your transmission temperature when hauling a trailer

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q My wife and I took the plunge and bought a fifth-wheel trailer and a truck to tow it. Everything was supposedly chosen to work seamlessly together and, so far, it tows great. My question is about the transmission temperature gauge. I've never had one before and wonder what to look for when towing.

—Kirk M.

A Sounds like a lot of fun! The added weight and drag of your trailer will increase transmission temperature, especially in hilly terrain. Normal transmission fluid temperature is about 160-175 degrees. It might rise as high as 200-220 degrees under demanding conditions but hopefully it won't go any higher. Transmission fluid degrades rapidly at higher temperatures. Cooked fluid and high operating temperature are transmission killers!

If you are ascending steep grades and find the transmission fluid temperature exceeding 220 degrees, I'd consider pulling over and enjoying at least a half hour of relaxation with the engine idling and transmission in park. Also know that downhill stretches will cool the transmission more quickly than being parked or idling.

Automatic transmissions typically employ a liquid transmission cooler within the engine-cooling system radiator. This allows engine heat to bring the transmission temperature up to the correct range quickly and then does a fairly good job of maintaining fluid temperature under moderate towing conditions. Depending on your truck's powertrain options, there's a good chance it may be equipped with an auxiliary transmission cooler (a finned rectangular device mounted in front of the radiator/air conditioning condenser). If not, you may want to consider adding one.

If you find the transmission frequently working at temperatures higher than desired, a larger auxiliary cooler, with fan, and perhaps a deep sump transmission oil pan (adds about three quarts to fluid capacity) may help. Adding a drain plug to the oil pan—if it doesn't already have one—and doing at least a partial fluid change every 15,000 miles can't hurt (about a third of the fluid drains out through the pan).

There's a good chance your truck is equipped with a tow-haul feature. Using it in hilly terrain will ease strain on the engine and transmission, as the software orders quicker downshifts, holds gears longer, allows differing operating characteristics of the torque converter clutch, and enhances engine braking on downgrades or when slowing. Tow-haul does decrease fuel economy a bit, so you may find it's best left off unless conditions warrant its use.

■ ■ ■ ■

On a personal note: We're packing up to make our eleventh Alaska-to-California trip, a 3,800-mile trek that's become an annual tradition. Lots of planning and inspections are needed when you're crossing the Yukon Territory, in which you're often 500 or so miles from a suitable repair facility or place to buy supplies.

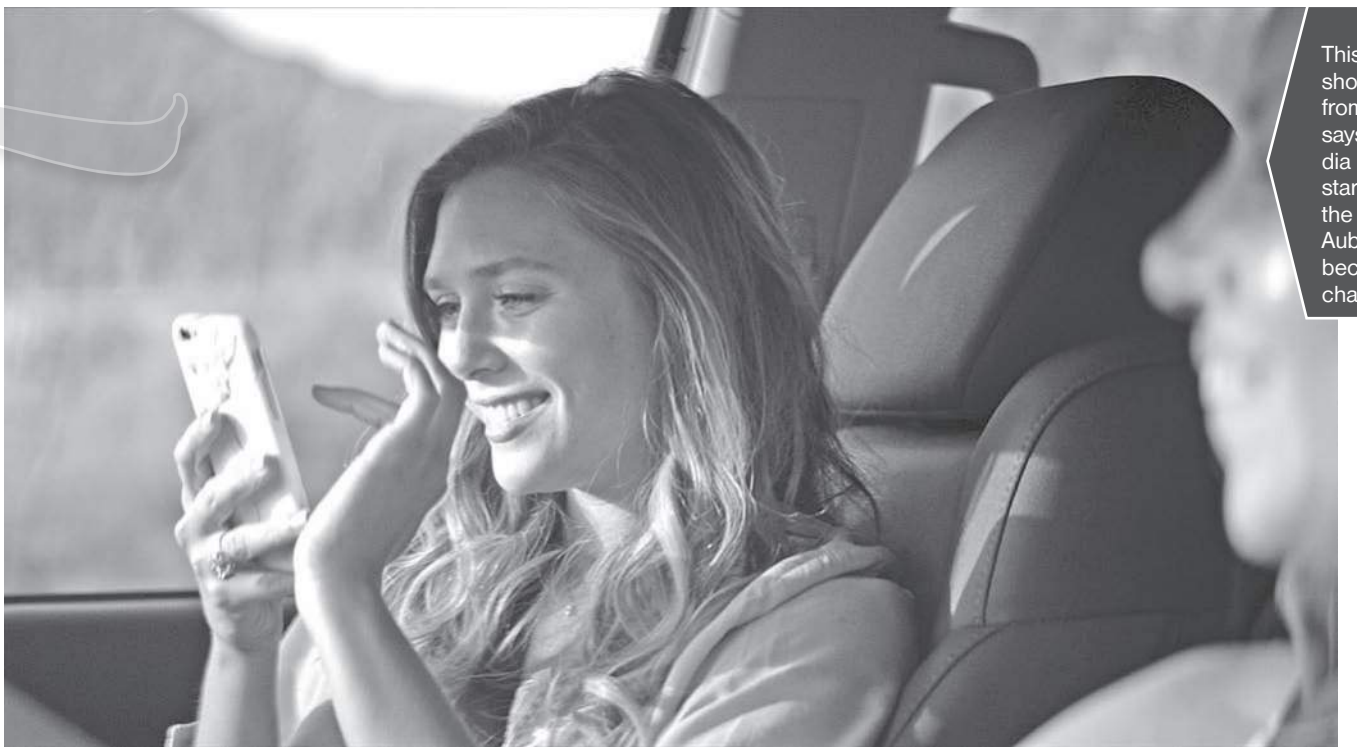
We drive about 10 hours and typically spend each night at a gravel pit. Might seem odd, but these sites make great camp spots given their wide availability, great views and lack of bugs. Through our travels, we've also learned about wonderful spots near magnificent rivers and lakes. Canadian provincial parks are also great as long as you watch out for wet paint on the meticulously maintained structures.

The days of mud bogs, two spare tires and broken windshields are largely over. Yukon gravel, for the most part, is preferable to California pavement!

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Film satirizes the perils of social media envy



AP

This image released by Neon shows Elizabeth Olsen in a scene from "Ingrid Goes West." Olsen says she was once a social media detractor, until she decided to star as an Instagram celebrity in the dark satire. She stars opposite Aubrey Plaza, whose character becomes obsessed with Olsen's character on Instagram.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Have you ever been jealous of someone on Instagram? Or gone down a spiral of late night scrolling that starts out as voyeurism and ends in despair? That's the sensation captured in "Ingrid Goes West," a new indie film out Friday that skewers both sides of the social media equation with uncomfortable acumen.

It's the latest satirical pop culture effort to delve into the painful realities of the way social media impacts our lives. It's been expressed as a hyper-exaggerated dystopia in the "Nosedive" episode of "Black Mirror," which imagines a society where class and opportunity is based on social media popularity and where strangers and friends alike can impact your rating based on any interaction.

"Portlandia" star Carrie Brownstein also created a horror landscape in the Kenzo promotional short "The Realest Real," where select fans actually get to be with the famous people they interact with online.

Then there is "Ingrid Goes West," which is just close enough to reality to make you squirm. On the one end, there's Ingrid, played by Aubrey Plaza, who we meet in a rage spiral observing a wedding she wasn't invited to. She's a loner with obsessive tendencies who upends her life, moves to Los Angeles and reinvents herself into the image of a stranger she's become enchanted by on Instagram: Taylor Sloane (Elizabeth Olsen).

You know a Taylor Sloane, even if you don't think you do. She's the woman who posts a perfect Instagram photo of the perfect vintage copy of Joan Didion's "The White Album" with the perfect quote and a jumble of hashtags like #blessed and #inspiration. The one whose account is full of her Moon Juice smoothies and Erdem dresses and Clare V clutches and succulents and California sunsets and trips to Joshua Tree.

She's never getting the oil changed on her unwashed car, or paying bills, or cleaning the toilet.

Maybe she's a friend, or a friend of a friend, or maybe you follow her even though you don't actually know her, but it's not creepy because she has hundreds of thousands of followers. She is an Influencer. Not quite a celebrity, but not quite normal, her life is her brand and you are her envious admirer, devoted subject and customer.

When director and co-writer Matt Spicer envisioned the idea for "Ingrid Goes West," the "Black Mirror" episode had not come out and he saw a void in media that examined the "love/hate" relationship he and his co-writer David Branson Smith had with social media. Both were in relationships with women who had significant followings. They knew the searing jealousy that can boil over looking in on the filtered lives of others.

"It really captured how people interact right now and the problems with that," says Plaza, who also produced. "And I really liked the story of a girl who really wants another girl to be her friend and to like her."

She and Olsen approached their characters without judgment. Both, in essence, just want to be liked and fit in, although Ingrid takes some dark, possibly borderline turns in her expression of that.

The filmmakers didn't want to assign a mental illness to Ingrid, however.

"We wanted the audience to see parts of themselves in (Ingrid)," Spicer says. "We didn't want them to write her off."

The actresses have an understandably different relationship with social media as celebrities.

"It's really confusing sometimes. It can be a really great tool as an actor and a public figure," Plaza says. "But then the flip side is that that can sometimes be really invasive and it's hard to navigate because it's too much access and too much awareness. It's hard to find a balance."

Photograph is among the key evidence in Taylor Swift trial

DENVER (AP)—Jurors deciding whether a radio host groped Taylor Swift during a photo op—and whether she and her team got him fired—will have to determine not just whose story to believe but what to make of a photograph that both sides say proves their case.

The photo shows David Mueller with his right hand behind the singer, just below her waist, before a 2013 concert. It's inconclusive whether he's touching her. Both are smiling.

Based on court records, here's a look at that and other key elements in the he-said, she-said civil trial that begins Monday in federal court in Denver.

The photograph

Swift's lawyers called the image "damning" proof that Mueller inappropriately touched her. Mueller argues it shows him trying to jump into the frame.

Entertainment news outlet TMZ obtained and published the photo, which has since been sealed by the court.

Swift

Swift's business manager, Jesse Schaudies Jr., said her side did not want the picture in the news.

"We did not want copycats and one-uppers abounding. And that happens in our world," he testified last year. "These people all tend to escalate. I've watched what happens with these files and individuals."

The encounter

Swift says: "He took his hand and put it up my dress and grabbed onto my ass cheek."

Immediately after the meet-and-greet, Swift says, she confirmed the assault with a photographer and security staff, who then confronted Mueller.

Mueller says he told the security staff: "Please call the police. I didn't do anything."

Swift's security guard was about 3 feet (about 1 meter) away during the meet-and-greet, Mueller says. Swift remained pleasant as she bid Mueller and his girlfriend goodbye, he says, and more than a dozen people met with Swift after Mueller left.

The aftermath

Swift says: "It was not an accident. It was completely intentional, and I have never been so sure of anything in my life."

A member of Swift's staff called Mueller's boss at radio station KYGO and asked that the station "take appropriate action."

Swift maintains she was sexually assaulted but was trying to keep the matter discreet and quiet. She says she does not know Mueller and has no incentive to target him or to fabricate a story.

Mueller's boss said the DJ told him during an internal investigation that any contact during the photo op was incidental or accidental.

Other key witnesses

■ Andrea Swift, the singer's mother, will testify about the decision to contact Mueller's boss and not call the police.

■ Frank Bell, a member of the singer's team, will testify about why he contacted Mueller's bosses at KYGO and what was said. Bell and Andrea Swift are also defendants in Mueller's lawsuit.

■ Shannon Melcher, Mueller's girlfriend at the time, will testify about standing on the other side of Swift when the photo was taken, and to Mueller's character.

■ Greg Dent, Swift's bodyguard, may be called to testify about what he saw during the encounter.

Actor makes shift from TV's Norman Bates to 'Good Doctor'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Freddie Highmore sees his move from "Bates Motel" to "The Good Doctor" as a refreshing change.

"It's nice to save people after years of killing them," Highmore said, dryly, of the surgeon he plays in the upcoming ABC drama. He portrayed an adolescent Norman Bates On "Bates Motel," A&E's prequel to the classic thriller "Psycho."

Highmore's Dr. Shaun Murphy, who has autism and savant syndrome, joins a hospital's prestigious surgical unit despite staff bias and skepticism. Richard Schiff ("The West Wing") co-stars as his advocate and mentor.

The series is from David Shore, who produced the medical drama "House," and actor Daniel Dae Kim of "Lost" and "Hawaii Five-O."

During a Q&A with TV critics Sunday, Shore acknowledged past speculation about whether Dr. Gregory House, played by Hugh Laurie, was on the autism spectrum.

But the cynical House and the innocent Murphy couldn't be more different, Shore said. Both question the status quo, he said, asking, "'Why do we do the things we do?'"

Kim, who has added producing to his career portfolio, said he may make an appearance on "The Good Doctor," a show he decided to bring to American TV after seeing the South Korean version. For now, he's content being behind the scenes and observing a cast that he said inspires him.

His seven seasons as Chin Ho Kelly on "Hawaii Five-O" ended after a contract dispute. In a Facebook post in July, the South Korean-born Kim said that the "path to equality is rarely easy," without elaborating.

Asked about the circumstances of his exit Sunday, he called the crime drama an important part of his life and expressed gratitude to CBS.

"That said, it's possible to be grateful for the opportunity, and respectful of the colleagues and the people that I worked with, and still maintain a steadfast sense of your self-worth," Kim added. "And all good things come to an end."

During a CBS panel with the Television Critics Association last week, CBS Entertainment executive Kelly Kahl said the exit of Kim and co-star Grace Park represented a "business transaction," with the actors seeking bigger contracts than the network was offering.

The pair reportedly sought parity with stars Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan.

Chris Pratt and Anna Faris announce separation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Pratt and Anna Faris have announced they are separating after eight years of marriage.

The actors announced their breakup on social media Sunday night in a joint statement confirmed by Pratt's publicist.

"We tried hard for a long time, and we're really disappointed," the actors wrote. "Our son has two parents who love him very much and for his sake we want to keep this situation as private as possible moving forward. We still have love for each other, will always cherish our time together and continue to have the deepest respect for one another."

Pratt, who stars in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise and Faris, who stars on CBS' comedy "Mom," were married in 2009. They have a 4-year-old son.

They were one of Hollywood's most popular couples and publicly supportive of each other in their work and on social media. Pratt guest-starred as Faris' love interest on "Mom" earlier this year, and the couple laughed and kissed in April when Pratt was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

AP

In this Dec. 14, 2016, file photo, Chris Pratt, right, and Anna Faris arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of "Passengers"at the Village Theatre Westwood.

Rolling Stones guitarist feared the worst with cancer call

LONDON (AP)—Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood has revealed that he feared the worst after being diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year.

The 70-year-old guitarist says he thought it might be "time to say goodbye," after a doctor performing routine tests offered the news that he "had this supernova burning away on my left lung." The musician says he just told the doctor to get it out of him.

Wood told The Mail on Sunday that he had decided not to have chemotherapy if results turned out to be bad. He says he decided, "I wasn't going to lose my hair. This hair wasn't going anywhere."

He thanked doctors in May for treating a small lesion in his lung and will undergo checks every three months.

ABC's 'The Middle' is ready for its 9th and final season

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The cast and producers of ABC's sitcom "The Middle" are ready to say goodbye—or almost everyone is.

Series co-star Atticus Shaffer said he's proud when viewers tell him that the show is something the family can watch together, and he'd like the show to keep going.

But producers Eileen Heisler and DeAnn Heline said it's time for the sitcom about an Indiana household to end. Its ninth and final season will begin airing Oct. 3.

Heisler said the show, starring Patricia Heaton and Neil Flynn, doesn't want to overstay its welcome with viewers.

The producers also told TV critics Sunday they're glad to wrap up "The Middle" on their terms and give it a proper goodbye.

That includes bringing back fan-favorite characters from seasons past, including the Rev. TimTom.

Kyra Sedgwick stars as a mother whose daughter disappears

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—TV producer Tassie Cameron had a recurring nightmare: While she was in her study working on a script, her sleeping children were taken from their beds.

This nightmare inspired her to create ABC's "Ten Days in the Valley," a 10-part mystery starring Kyra Sedgwick as Jane, the overworked single mother whose young daughter goes missing.

Everyone around Jane will be suspect. Even Jane seems culpable for letting the crime happen under her nose.

Sedgwick, who for seven seasons starred on the cop drama "The Closer," told reporters Sunday she was interested in "doing a show where I'm not SOLVING a mystery—I AM a mystery."

The whereabouts of Jane's daughter is "very much a matter of unraveling the mystery of who Jane is," Sedgwick said.

It premieres Oct. 1.

New sitcom tells story about reluctant hero saving the world

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—One person can't change the world. But you can change yourself—and that kind of changes the world.

That's a thumbnail description of "Kevin (Probably) Saves the World" as expressed by Michele Fazekas, a co-creator of the new ABC sitcom.

Jason Ritter stars as Kevin, who's down on his luck and unconcerned with helping others. Then a spiritual figure pays him a call.

As Ritter told reporters Sunday, the reluctant hero he plays isn't "exactly happy being asked to save the world."

Co-creator Tara Butters promises the show will be both funny and not funny, serious and not serious. She says it's all those things.

Then she voiced her own version of the overarching message: "Don't be a jerk." But she didn't say "jerk."

The series premieres Oct. 3.

A would-be rap star seizes office in ABC comedy 'The Mayor'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—An unlikely outsider wins political office: Sound familiar?

ABC's new sitcom "The Mayor" has its own version, set in an economically depressed town where a young rapper runs for mayor just to generate publicity for his music—but much to everyone's shock—especially his—is elected.

The series was created by Jeremy Bronson, a self-proclaimed political junkie whose credits include producing MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews."

Bronson told reporters Sunday that, in his news days, he loved stories where an outsider challenged the system. That inspired his new comedy.

The diverse cast includes Lea Michele ("Glee") and stars Brandon Micheal Hall as the man with an unexpected mission to make things better.

Hall says his series is "based on hope. Because that's something we really need right now."

Gym client vents her anger at bad-mouthing by trainer

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I work out at the same gym. Over the past several months it has gotten back to me that one of the trainers, "Bob," has been talking negatively about me to some of the other members.

My boyfriend works out with another trainer there, and during his workout, I approached him and his trainer and expressed my anger about what Bob was doing. I said I was fed up and that I wanted to confront him.

My boyfriend told me to keep my mouth shut and say nothing. He said I shouldn't take it personally, that Bob is just being a hater. He also said the person who told me shouldn't have. I disagree. I don't think it matters how it got back to me—it did!

Last week, while his regular trainer was away, my boyfriend trained with Bob! I feel it was disloyal, but he disagrees. He thinks I should just let it go. What do you think?

GYM DILEMMA

DEAR GYM DILEMMA: Because the bad-mouthing has happened more than once, talk to the manager of the gym about what's going on. Bob may not like you, but that doesn't give him the right to make the gym an unpleasant place for clients to visit. If your boyfriend were loyal, he would have told Bob to knock it off. And he would not have worked out with him when his regular trainer was away; he would have chosen someone else.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law lives in another state, so she often mails my daughter's gifts to us after she buys the items online. Then she expects me to wrap them. The icing on the cake? She's now saying I need to add bows to these gifts, but she doesn't send any money for the wrapping paper or bows.

I think this is very rude. My daughter thinks her aunt takes the time to purchase these gifts, when she's only pressing a button and that is it. With everyone shopping online more and more, is this a new trend, to have the parents wrap gifts instead of the person giving them?

ONLINE GIFT GIVING

DEAR ONLINE: It's only a trend if you decide to let it become one. Feeling as you do, it's time you had a discussion with your sister-in-law concerning how you feel about this arrangement and what you expect from her.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 55 years passed away five months ago and I am lonely. How long should I wait before establishing a relationship with another woman?

A certain lady and I go to church together, so we are well acquainted. I never thought about being with her until my wife died. She and my wife were friendly acquaintances.

What is the right time to wait? Six months? A year? I never thought I could be lonely. Well, think again!

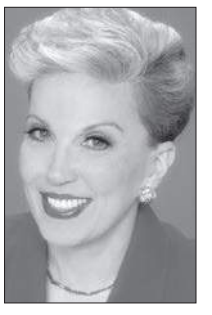
READY FOR THE FUTURE

DEAR READY: There's no timetable for grieving. If you feel you are ready for companionship, all you need to do is pick up the phone and call the lady you have in mind. To do that is not disrespectful to your late wife. It's a tribute to the happiness you experienced being part of a couple.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

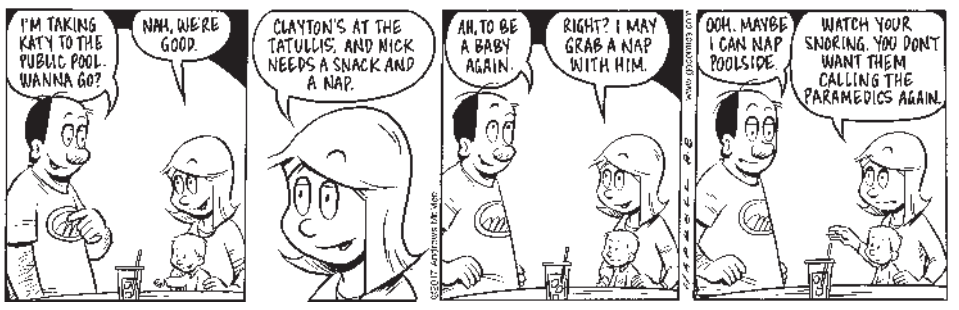
GOSH, THIS IS GOING TO BE A FUN VACATION! CAMPING OUT! WOW!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THERE! A WHOLE WEEK OF HIKING AND CANOEING AND SWIMMING AND FISHING!
A WHOLE WEEK WITHOUT A SINGLE NEWSPAPER OR A DECENT CUP OF REAL COFFEE.
DOESN'T MOM LIKE CAMPING?
MOM WAS UP A LITTLE TOO LATE PACKING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M TAKING KATY TO THE PUBLIC POOL. WANNA GO?
NAH, WE'RE GOOD.
CLAYTON'S AT THE TATULLIS, AND NICK NEEDS A SNACK AND A NAP.
AH, TO BE A BABY AGAIN.
RIGHT? I MAY GRAB A NAP WITH HIM.
OOH. MAYBE I CAN NAP POOLSIDE.
WATCH YOUR SNORING. YOU DON'T WANT THEM CALLING THE PARAMEDICS AGAIN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS A MAN'S TESTOSTERONE LEVEL DROPS AS HE AGES.
HMM...
I'LL BET THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BET?
HOW ABOUT MY NEW BARBIE DREAMHOUSE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

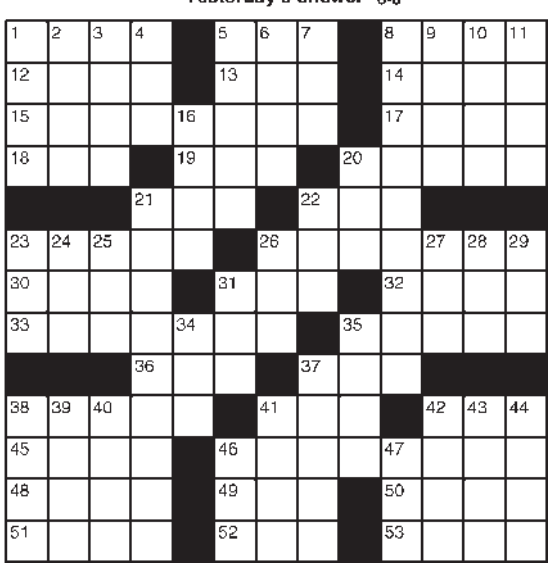
1 Heal
5 Crunchy sandwich
8 Cushions
12 — about (circa)
13 Young fellow
14 Theater award
15 NASCAR repair breaks
17 Brownish purple
18 Consumed
19 Approves
20 Perfume compound
21 "The Bells" author
22 1006, to Nero
23 Blockhead
26 Manhattan Project element
30 Genesis shepherd
31 "— was saying ..."
32 Big wind
33 Lasagna cheese
35 First extra inning
36 Bottom line
37 Mal de —
38 Correct
41 Caustic solution
42 Mac alternatives
45 Hotel chain
46 Where to hock stuff
48 Egg on
49 Ms. Thurman
50 Fine cotton
51 Admin. aide
52 Inlet
53 Arkin of "Argo"

DOWN

1 Club in a Manilow song
2 One
3 Memory method
4 Triage ctrs.
5 Chap
6 Track circuits
7 QBs' goals
8 Taylor Swift, for one
9 Border on
10 Vegas cubes
11 Crystal gazer
16 Animated figure
20 Zsa Zsa's sister
21 Sporty top
22 Hosp. scan
23 Scratch the surface
24 Kimono closer
25 Fun and games
26 Olympics chant
27 Author Fleming
28 Last (Abbr.)
29 "I'm not impressed"
31 $ dispenser
34 Boy king
35 Adolescent
37 Classic Sinatra song
38 Activist Parks
39 Rapscallions
40 Wildebeests
41 Tibetan monk
42 Dr. McGraw
43 Prolonged sleep
44 Bridge
46 Tavern
47 Resort

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 36; Joely Collins, 45; Keith Carradine, 68; Dustin Hoffman, 80.

Happy Birthday: Your drive and determination will make others take note. Do your own thing and be proud of what you do. Engage in partnerships that make you feel comfortable. Working as a team player will make your accomplishments more rewarding. Display courage and take care of responsibilities and positive changes. An open mind and attitude will result in new opportunities. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 21, 24, 35, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make home improvements. Be creative and stay within your budget. Shop around for the best deals and strive to get along with anyone your decisions will affect. Working with someone else will help you get things done faster. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A good imagination and a workable plan will help you gain an advantage over anyone you are competing with or who challenges you. Strategizing and taking positive and progressive action will help you stay on the right track. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Deal with personal matters honestly. If you feel like someone is not being upfront with you or has a hidden agenda, don't agree or disagree. It's in your best interest to make decisions based on the facts you gather. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for alternatives when dealing with personal matters that can affect important relationships. Simplicity and common sense will help you avoid excessive reactions from others. A business trip will result in an interesting offer. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take the initiative to get things done and to bring about positive changes. A business trip or discussion with someone who can provide a different point of view will give you the insight you need to make a wise choice. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk openly about the way you feel and what you want to see happen. If someone overreacts or puts too much pressure on you, offer less-demanding alternatives. Personal improvements are featured and romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A change will do you good. Express your feelings and exchange ideas with the people you feel can contribute as much to your life as you can contribute to theirs. Balance and equality will promote healthy partnerships. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your intelligence and insight to help you work your way through any situation that involves interference from outsiders. A change regarding your reputation or the way you live will surface unexpectedly. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take part in conferences, networking functions and experiences that offer knowledge and positive change. Partnerships won't work unless you draw up a fair contract that specifies who does what. A change of location will inspire new ideas and concepts. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Past experiences will help you make an important decision regarding your future and your relationship with someone you love. Assess your situation honestly and you will avoid getting caught in an explosive situation. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think twice about information or an offer you receive. Double-check facts before you take on something time-consuming and costly. Your energy and enthusiasm are best applied to something that will benefit you, not someone else. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Pour your heart into something you believe in. Make a statement by taking action and making a difference. Talk about your dreams with someone you love. Sharing your intentions will help you see future prospects with greater clarity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, generous and goal-oriented. You are innovative and diligent.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		7		3		9
9					2			
		7				4		
5			7		3			
7	8						2	1
			5		8			7
		5				1		
			9					8
3		4		5		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	8	6	2	9	1	5	7
7	6	2	3	5	1	9	8	4
9	1	5	4	8	7	6	2	3
6	8	1	9	4	2	3	7	5
2	7	3	8	1	5	4	6	9
5	9	4	7	3	6	8	1	2
3	4	6	5	7	8	2	9	1
8	2	7	1	9	4	5	3	6
1	5	9	2	6	3	7	4	8

Difficulty level ★ 8/7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS WIN THE STANLEY CUP Sol.: 12 letters

O	Z	T	S	R	U	H	W	E	D	E	L	D	J	Z
K	T	S	U	R	I	M	A	L	K	I	N	A	T	S
E	I	I	N	A	V	I	L	L	U	S	R	L	H	T
S	N	V	T	T	D	W	N	I	N	R	U	E	E	R
S	U	Q	L	S	N	I	O	V	Y	H	A	Y	Y	E
E	K	N	E	I	E	L	D	H	C	R	R	L	X	I
L	W	R	T	V	L	S	N	S	Y	C	H	E	U	T
K	A	O	A	Q	L	O	O	A	Y	R	E	Z	E	B
C	R	H	N	D	U	N	C	N	E	S	F	T	I	O
A	S	P	G	N	C	E	L	O	C	C	K	N	M	N
H	O	O	M	U	R	R	A	Y	R	O	N	E	E	I
N	F	R	S	S	Y	E	N	W	O	R	B	U	L	N
H	S	T	D	L	A	B	I	H	C	R	A	G	A	O
U	K	E	T	E	N	I	L	U	O	M	U	D	P	G
K	Y	R	U	E	L	F	Y	T	O	I	L	U	O	P

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Archibald, Bonino, Cole, Condon, Corrado, Cullen, Daley, Dumoulin, Fehr, Fleury, Gaunce, Guentzel, Hornqvist, Jarry, Kessel, Kuhnhackl, Kunitz, Lemieux, Letang, Malkin, Murray, Nashville, Net, Oleksy, Porter, Pouliot, PPG, Rowney, Ruhwedel, Rust, Schultz, Sestito, Sheary, Streit, Sullivan, Sundqvist, Warsofsky, Wilson

Yesterday's Answer: Bargain

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 50,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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MARKETING SERVICES MANAGER

JVA# CNMI 1-2017-6

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Work Experience: Five (5) years of experience performing professional level design and creative roles in marketing and/or advertising, including two (2) years in a supervisory-level

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Warehouse Operations Manager

Responsible for the overall management of the warehouse operations, vehicles, building and refrigeration maintenance department.

Principle Accountabilities and Responsibilities:

- Oversee all activities of the receiving, storage, and delivery of merchandise.
- Insure all warehouse, vehicle maintenance and refrigeration policies and procedure are adhere to and to include compliance of OSHA regulations.
- Oversee the departments mention above to maximize efficiency and productivity and insuring a smooth flow of work.
- Develop policies and procedures for all departments mentioned above.
- Insure that all expenditures are properly recorded and approved. To include the implementation of the Fleet Management System.
- Insure that all material handling operators are properly trained per OSHA regulation.
- Responsible for insuring the warehouse drivers are operating company vehicles safely and also monitoring driver behavior.
- Work with warehouse supervisors on developing subordinates to their full potential.
- Coordinate with sales and marketing departments to meet company's goal and also to address customer needs.
- Communicate with other department managers on warehouse delivery issues concerning customer orders, expectations, and deliveries.
- Communicate with other department managers with all the vehicle needs either for repairs or replacement of company vehicle.
- Communicate with other department managers to expedite outbound orders for our distribution centers in the other islands/trust territories and other customer shipments.
- Responsible for conducting disciplinary action and/or counseling for all personnel in the warehouse.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Qualification: Any Combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a Bachelor's degree plus two years of related work experience.

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Classified Ads

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Wieters hits grand slam as Nationals beat Cubs, 9-4

CHICAGO (AP)—Matt Wieters hit a tiebreaking grand slam off Carl Edwards Jr. in Washington's five-run eighth inning, helping the Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 9-4 on Sunday.

Bryce Harper started the winning rally with a one-out infield single against Mike Montgomery. Ryan Zimmerman doubled against Edwards and Daniel Murphy was walked intentionally to load the bases.

Washington then grabbed control in a span of two pitches. Edwards (3-3) hit Anthony Rendon, tying it at 4, and Wieters followed with a drive over the wall in center for his third career grand slam.

Wieters drove in five runs and Brian Goodwin homered for the NL East-leading Nationals, who had dropped three of four.

Willson Contreras homered twice for NL Central-leading Chicago.

Brandon Kintzler (3-2) pitched a scoreless inning for his first win since he was acquired in a trade with Minnesota.

AP

Washington Nationals' Brian Goodwin, right, celebrates with Howie Kendrick after hitting a solo home run against the Chicago Cubs during the ninth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017, in Chicago.

Yankees 8, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Luis Severino overpowered Cleveland's lineup into the seventh inning, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a three-run triple and rookie Aaron Judge hammered a three-run homer, sending the Yankees to a win over the Indians.

Severino (9-4) gave up Michael Brantley's homer in the first and then toyed with the Indians, striking out nine and allowing just three runners to reach. He didn't give up his second hit until there were two outs in the seventh and was pulled by manager Joe Girardi before getting a roaring ovation from several thousand New York fans.

The All-Star right-hander is 4-0 with a 0.71 ERA in his last four starts.

Ellsbury's triple came in New York's five-run sixth off Carlos Carrasco (10-5), and Judge connected in the seventh for his 35th homer — only No. 5 since the All-Star break — to give New York an 8-1 lead.

Astros 7, Blue Jays 6

In Houston, Juan Centeno hit an RBI single with two outs that capped a four-run rally in the ninth inning, lifting the Astros over the Blue Jays.

Jose Altuve singled off All-Star closer Roberto Osuna (3-3) to begin the Houston ninth and one-out singles by Yuli Gurriel and Marwin Gonzalez loaded the bases. Carlos Beltran grounded into a forceout that scored a run, and Alex Bregman hit a tying, two-run triple.

Centeno followed with a liner over the head of leaping first baseman Justin Smoak and into shallow right field to win it for the AL West leaders.

Nori Aoki had a two-run homer, his first hit since being traded from Houston to Toronto last Monday, during a four-run seventh that gave the Blue Jays a 6-3 lead.

Francis Martes (4-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Osuna allowed five hits and four runs while getting only two outs for his seventh blown save this season.

Cardinals 13, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Jose Martinez hit his first grand slam during the Cardinals' nine-run fourth inning, and St. Louis overcame Adam Wainwright's rough return from the disabled list, beating the Reds.

The Cardinals took two of three in the series. They're 5-8 against Cincinnati this season.

St. Louis sent 13 batters to the plate for nine runs in the fourth, matching its biggest inning of the season. Martinez connected off Homer Bailey (3-6), who gave up a career-high 10 runs in only 3 1/3 innings. Bailey has been hit hard in his return from surgery to remove bone spurs from his pitching elbow last February.

The Cardinals overcame a rugged first inning by Wainwright, who had spent the last 12 days on the DL with a stiff back. Joey Votto hit a three-run homer, and Wainwright threw 39 pitches before retiring a batter. Wainwright left after three innings and 88 pitches.

Brett Cecil (2-4) allowed three hits in three innings for the win.

Rays 2, Brewers 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Steven Souza Jr. homered off Milwaukee reliever Jacob Barnes leading off the ninth inning Sunday to lift the Rays to a win over the Brewers.

Souza's 24th home run helped the Rays salvage a win in a three-game series in which they scored only two runs. It was Souza's first walkoff homer with the Rays.

Most of the game was a pitchers' duel between the Rays' Chris Archer and the Brewers' Jimmy Nelson.

Tommy Hunter (1-2) got the win after tossing 1 1/3 innings of relief.

Barnes (3-3) threw only two pitches in relief of Nelson, who gave up one run on six hits while striking out nine in eight innings.

Marlins 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Jose Urena pitched six strong innings, Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer and the Marlins avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over the Braves.

Urena (10-5) won for the third time in four starts, allowing one run and three hits, walking one and striking out three.

Lucas Sims (0-2), making his second career start, gave allowed four runs in six innings. The Braves' 2012 first-round draft pick trailed 4-0 in the first after hitting Giancarlo Stanton with a pitch, walking Christian Yelich and giving up consecutive homers to Ozuna, his 26th, and J.T. Realmuto, his 13th .

Pirates 5, Padres 4, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Sean Rodriquez homered in the 12th inning to give the Pirates a win over the Padres.

Rodriguez, acquired from Atlanta a day earlier, lifted a 1-1 pitch off Padres reliever Buddy Baumann (0-1) over the left-field wall.

Rookie reliever Dovydas Neverauskas (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings to get his first career win.

The Pirates took two of three from the Padres after losing their past four series. Entering this series, Pittsburgh had lost eight of 11 since a six-game winning streak from July 16-21.

Pirates closer Felipe Rivero gave up two walks and a single to load the bases loaded with two outs in the ninth inning before Manuel Margot's two-run single tied the score 4-4.

Phillies 3, Rockies 2

In Denver, Cameron Rupp hit a two-run double in the ninth inning, and the Phillies rallied to beat the Rockies.

Rupp, who had been thrown out at home an inning earlier, drove the first pitch he saw from closer Greg Holland (2-2) into the gap in left-center field, scoring Maikel Franco and Hyun Soo Kim. It was the second blown save in 36 chances for Holland.

Rupp finished with three hits and Franco homered for Philadelphia, which snapped a five-game losing streak.

Edubray Ramos (1-7) pitched the eighth inning and Hector Neris got the last three outs for his 11th save.

The Rockies took a 2-1 lead in the seventh off starter Aaron Nola. The game was tied with two outs in the seventh when pinch-hitter Raimel Tapia worked a walk off Nola. He stole second and scored on Charlie Blackmon's third double of the game.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 3

In San Francisco, Jeff Samardzija pitched into the seventh inning to win his third consecutive start and the Giants beat the Diamondbacks.

The Giants entered the day with the second-worst record in the NL, but jumped on Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin early and held on to win the series. Arizona still has a hold on the second NL wild-card spot despite dropping four of its last seven.

Samardzija (7-11) allowed three runs on five hits before leaving after giving up a one-out single to Katel Marte then walking Chris Hermann in the seventh. Albert Suarez retired seven batters for his first career save.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 3

In Boston, Chris Young hit two homers, including a tiebreaking three-run shot after the batter in front was walked intentionally, to lift the Red Sox to a win over the White Sox.

Young added an RBI double and had a solo homer to help the AL East-leading Red Sox complete a four-game sweep of the White Sox.

Chicago lost its sixth consecutive game, and 23rd in its last 27. The White Sox were swept in a four-game series in Fenway Park for the first time since July of 1988.

Doug Fister (2-5) allowed three runs and eight hits over 6 1/3 innings, striking out a season-high seven for his second straight win. Craig Kimbrel, the third reliever, pitched the ninth for his 27th save.

Mike Pelfrey (3-10) gave up six runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings. He's 0-5 with a 7.78 ERA in his last eight starts.

Orioles 12, Tigers 3

In Baltimore, Jonathan Schoop, Chris Davis and Trey Mancini homered in succession during a four-run first inning that sent the Orioles past the Tigers.

Joey Rickard and Manny Machado also connected for the Orioles, who led 8-0 after four innings and cruised to their seventh win in nine games.

All five home runs were hit off Anibal Sanchez (3-2), who yielded a career-high tying eight runs and 10 hits in three-plus innings.

Machado went 4 for 5 with five RBIs, and Rickard had a career-best four hits and scored three runs.

Backed by all that firepower, Ubaldo Jimenez (5-7) earned his first win in five starts since July 9. The right-hander pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up one run and nine hits.

Nicholas Castellanos homered for the Tigers, who had to settle for a split of the four-game series after winning the first two.

Twins 6, Rangers 5

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler, Brian Dozier and Eddie Rosario homered to help the Minnesota Twins dig out of a five-run hole and beat the Rangers.

Jose Berrios (10-5) gave up five runs on six hits and struck out six in five innings, Trevor Hildenberger threw two innings of scoreless relief and Robbie Grossman drove in the go-ahead run for the Twins, who were missing slugger Miguel Sano for the second straight game because of a sore left hand.

Adrian Beltre hit his 455th career homer and Joey Gallo also went deep for the Rangers, who were shut out after a five-run first inning. Nick Martinez gave up five runs on five hits with five strikeouts and two walks in a game that was delayed 32 minutes by rain in the second inning.

Athletics 11, Angels 10

In Anaheim, California, Bruce Maxwell's two-run single completed a dramatic five-run, two-out comeback in the eighth inning, and the Athletics stunned the Angels.

The Angels led 10-5 after the sixth but couldn't hold on against an A's team that hammered them with 18 hits, including three home runs and seven doubles.

Down 10-6 in the eighth, Khris Davis hit a three-run homer off reliever Blake Parker to ignite the Oakland comeback. Parker had not allowed a run in 27 consecutive appearances at home.

After Ryon Healy doubled, the Angels went to Bud Norris (1-5), but the closer gave up a run-scoring single to Chad Pinder, a double to Matt Chapman and then the two-run single to Maxwell.

Josh Smith (2-0) picked up the win in relief. Blake Treinen, Oakland's seventh reliever, earned his fifth overall save and second with the A's.

Mariners 8, Royals 7, 1st game
Royals 9, Mariners 1, 2nd game

In Kansas City, Missouri, rookie Jakob Junis pitched eight sharp innings and the Kansas City Royals beat the Seattle Mariners 9-1 to split their doubleheader Sunday.

Nelson Cruz homered twice and drove in four runs as the Mariners held off the Royals 8-7 in the first game.

Whit Merrifield homered in both games for the Royals.

Junis (4-2), who was added to Kansas City's roster as the extra 26th man for the twinbill, allowed one run. He retired his final 19 batters after giving up an RBI double to Danny Espinosa in the second inning.

Junis walked none and struck out a career-high seven.

Melky Cabrera hit a three-run homer off Erasmo Ramirez (4-4) during a four-run third inning. It was Cabrera's first home run since the Royals acquired him in a July 30 trade with the Chicago White Sox. Cabrera also had an RBI double.

Eric Hosmer homered and drove in three runs for the Royals.

Matsuyama wins at Firestone with big finish

AP
Hideki Matsuyama, from Japan, holds up The Gary Player Cup trophy after the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017, in Akron, Ohio.

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Hideki Matsuyama was along for the ride four years ago when he watched Tiger Woods tear apart Firestone Country Club on his way to a 61 in the second round, which tied the South course record and sent Woods to a seven-shot victory in the Bridgestone Invitational.

"I just couldn't believe that anyone could shoot 61 on this golf course," Matsuyama said.

He sure didn't expect that from himself Sunday, especially after warming up so badly that Matsuyama wasn't sure which the way ball was going. Some four hours later, the 25-year-old Japanese star had a place alongside Woods in the record book.

Matsuyama finished with three straight birdies to cap off a runaway victory with a 9-under 61, giving him his second World Golf Championship in nine month. It was the lowest final round in four decades at venerable Firestone, and it gave Matsuyama a five-shot victory over Zach Johnson.

He finished at 16-under 264 and moved back to the top of the FedEx Cup standings.

Matsuyama found more than just his swing after he left the range. He might have found the game that first elevated him to the elite in golf last fall when he had four victories and two runner-up finishes over six straight tournaments.

And the timing couldn't be better with the PGA Championship four days away, with a Japanese nation clamoring for its first major champion.

"I hope their expectations aren't too high," Matsuyama said. "But my expectations really at the beginning of this week weren't that high, either, and here we are."

He won for the third time this season, joining Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth for most on the PGA Tour.

"Once he gets going, he just keeps the hammer down and keeps it going," Rory McIlroy said. "It's very impressive. He's played very impressively over the past 18 months with a lot of wins and a lot of good finishes. That's the caliber of player he is. I expect him to be right up there next week, as well."

Matsuyama, who started the final round two shots behind Thomas Pieters and Zach Johnson, quickly got into the hunt by chipping in from 60 feet for eagle. He took the lead for the first time on No. 6 with a 15-foot birdie, and then he was gone.

Woods shot 61 twice at Firestone. Jose Maria Olazabal in 1990 and Sergio Garcia in 2014 were the other players to do it. Matsuyama knew from his experience playing with Woods in 2013 what it would take. And just like everything else on this day, he made it look easy.

He spun a wedge back to 4 feet on the par-5 16th for birdie. He holed an 8-foot putt on the 17th hole and then closed with another approach and settled 6 feet away. Matsuyama, who began the final round two shots behind Johnson and Thomas Pieters, finished at 15-under 265.

He now has won two World Golf Championships by a combined 12 shots, having captured the HSBC Champions by seven shots in Shanghai last fall.

Johnson, winless since his British Open victory two years ago at St. Andrews, pulled within one shot with a long birdie putt at the 11th, but he could do no better than pars the rest of the way and shot 68.

Pieters was never in the game after missing 4-foot par putts on successive holes to close out the front nine. He closed with a 71.

The only other player with a chance was Charley Hoffman, who also was one shot behind on the back nine. Hoffman was three shots behind on the par-5 16th hole when his caddie suggested laying up because there was no place to get it close by going for the green 282 yards away.

"I'm trying to win a tournament," Hoffman said. "I'm tired of finishing second."

He ripped a 3-wood onto the green and over the back into light rough, chipped weakly to 15 feet and made par anyway. He wound up with a 66 to finish third, though it was a big step in trying to make his first Presidents Cup team.

Matsuyama's final birdie broke by one shot the lowest final round by a winner at Firestone. Fulton Allem shot 62 when he won the old World Series of Golf in 1993.

McIlroy got within one shot of the lead on the front nine with three birdies in six holes until his momentum stalled with a few missed putts. He stumbled on the back nine and shot 69, leaving him in a tie for fifth with Russell Knox, Paul Casey and Adam Hadwin.

Clippers' Willie Reed arrested on domestic violence charge

MIAMI (AP)—New Los Angeles Clippers center Willie Reed was jailed Sunday in Miami on a battery charge.

His wife told police that he dragged her across the apartment while wrestling for a purse and later pulled her hair and grabbed her by the wrist during an argument Saturday night, according to the police report.

Reed's wife told police the argument started when she told her husband she wanted a divorce. She said she was knocked to the ground while struggling over her purse and dragged around the apartment until the strap broke. She also alleged Reed tore her shirt as she went to the lobby of the apartment building to notify the concierge, then returned to get her two children.

When the woman picked up her youngest son and started to exit the apartment again, she told police that Reed grabbed her by the hair to take the child back, then grabbed her left wrist and twisted her arm to get her to the ground. She said she responded by hitting Reed in the head with a glass candle.

Reed told police that he never put his hands on his wife, but he did acknowledge grabbing her shirt and her purse, according to the police report. He also told police that he touched his wife as she was getting on the elevator.

Police said Reed's wife had red marks on her left wrist, right biceps, back and chest.

Reed spent last season with the Miami Heat and had been working out in Miami in recent days. The 27-year-old center finalized a $1.5 million, one-year contract with the Clippers last week despite his hopes for a longer-term, more lucrative contract in free agency.

He was booked Sunday at 3:06 a.m. His first court appearance was expected to take place later Sunday, and it was unknown if he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf. Reed's agent, Joel Bell, declined to comment while gathering more information.

Both the Clippers and NBA spokesman Tim Frank said they were aware of the allegations and were in the process of gathering information.

Reed averaged 5.3 points and 4.7 rebounds last season. He was undrafted after playing two seasons at Saint Louis. He played in the NBA's developmental league before signing with the Brooklyn Nets for the 2015-16 season.

NBA BRIEFS

Rivers will only coach Clippers; Frank to run front office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Doc Rivers is losing his dual roles with the Los Angeles Clippers, keeping his position as coach while Lawrence Frank takes over Rivers' responsibility for basketball operations. The team announced the changes Friday, saying the moves are "aimed at bringing the team to a new level of excellence by creating separate roles." The team says the change came as a result of discussions between Rivers and owner Steve Ballmer. Rivers and Frank will be equals in the Clippers' power structure, with each reporting directly to Ballmer. Last year, Frank was promoted to oversee day-to-day operations of the front office although Rivers retained his title as president of basketball operations. Frank and Rivers have a strong relationship and they worked together to make hires and changes in the front office structure. Frank has had previous NBA head coaching jobs in New Jersey and Detroit. "Doc knows how to win championships. That is what we prioritize, and that is what Doc will focus on," Ballmer said. "Lawrence is someone I learn from every single time I hear him talk. He gets recruiting, talent development and identification, salary cap strategy—he gets it all. With these two guys at the helm, we will have great success." Rivers said he's "excited to focus on the coaching side" since two-thirds of the team's roster will be new next season. In June, All-Star guard Chris Paul was traded to Houston. This month, the Clippers re-signed All-Star forward Blake Griffin and acquired forward Danilo Gallinari from Denver. Rivers was hired by the Clippers as president and coach in 2013. He has a 217-211 regular-season record. Rivers guided Boston to the 2008 NBA championship while coaching there for nine seasons.

AP source: Pelicans get Clark on 1-year deal at vet minimum

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A person familiar with the situation says former Golden State Warriors guard Ian Clark has agreed to play for the New Orleans Pelicans on a one-year, veteran minimum contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday morning because the signing was not yet official. The 6-foot-3 Clark averaged career highs of 6.8 points on 49-percent shooting in nearly 15 minutes per game in a championship campaign with the Warriors last season. Yahoo first reported Clark's intention to play for New Orleans. The 26-year-old Clark left the defending champs this summer to test the free agent market, which apparently dried up on him. As a combination guard, he'll be able to rotate in for either Rajon Rando or Jrue Holiday. When Clark first turned pro in 2013, he was coached by Pelicans lead assistant Darren Erman on Golden State's summer league squad.

Golden Boot, Glove winners feted

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Golden Boot awardees Guine Borja, Andruw Omelau, Sean Gil, Sophia Quintos, and Audrey Castro, pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five players went home with the Golden Boot awards, while three received the Golden Glove trophies at the conclusion of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Andruw Omelau of boys U16 division champion 4Gives led the list of Golden Boot awardees after collecting a tournament-best 25 goals. Guine Borja of girls U17 winner F. Marinos nearly matched Omelau's output with her 24 to take the Golden Boot award in her division. In the co-ed U12 age group, the winners were SSS' Sean Gil and Audrey Castro and Kanoa Football Club 1's Sophia Quintos. Gil gained 17 goals, while Castro and Quintos scored one apiece.

In the Golden Glove contests, HK SSS' Jonathan Mindanao had the most saves with 159 and topped the boys U16 division. F. Marinos goalkeeper Carla Ballesteros recorded 100 saves to earn the Golden Glove award in the girls U17 division, while the 108 saves of Kanoa Football Club 1's Paulo Quidato gave him the same trophy in the co-ed U12 category.

Meanwhile, team awards were also presented at the closing ceremonies of the futsal tournament. The Fair Play award in the co-ed U12 went to SSS, while HK SSS and Isamu United got the similar recognition in the boys U16 and girls U17 age groups, respectively.

The perpetual trophies for the champion teams were handed to Kanoa FC 2 (co-ed U12), 4Gives FC, and F. Marinos and their players were given medals, too. Saipan Elite and Marianas Health Armada also received medals for their runner-up finishes in the boys U16 and girls U17 divisions. 4Gives defeated Saipan Elite in the finals, 8-4; F. Marinos edged Marianas Health Armada, 2-1; and Kanoa FC 2 downed SSS, 4-0.

Tentative fights for ROP 22 released

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 13 undercard fights are tentatively lined up for Rites of Passage 22: Rampage set next month with organizers still trying to secure the final date and venue of one of the longest-running mixed martial arts events on Saipan.

Fight promoter Cuki Alvarez said all fights are subject to change. He is also looking for boxers or any fighter that has trained in the "Sweet Science" to sign up.

Boxing, if there would be fighters that would step up, would open up the event followed by two K1—a kickboxing platform—matches.

Trench Tech's Luis "TwoTwo" Litulumar (65 lbs) will face off with Team Tinian's William Juanis King (70 lbs) in a kids exhibition match followed by Derrick Evangelista (135 lbs) of Guam Muay Thai clashing with Lenny "MachingGun" Sablan (140 lbs).

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez is scheduled to fight last in the MMA roster at the 145-150-lb weight class. But his opponent has yet to be determined.

Team Tinian's Kimo Adriano will open up the MMA fights when he takes on Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho at 130 lbs, while Ground Fu's Kyle Gumataotao collides with Jadrien "Last King" Camacho of Down2Scrap at 120lbs.

Red Ants Academy's JBoy Langu will face Manny "The Kid" Camacho of Zombie MMA in a featherweight bout and Team Tinian's Audrien Cruz meets Zombie MMA's George "Game Over" Grover at 130 lbs.

It will Rota against Tinian for the next three bouts with L.D. Ogo, John Mendiola, and A.J. Barcinas of Luta Top Team battling Team Tinian's Perry World, Juschery Castro, and Austin John King at 145 lbs, 135 lbs, and 140 lbs weight classes, respectively.

Sang Hyun Park is hoping to return to Team Ace MMA Korea's gym in Paju with a win against Steel Athletics Guam's Seay Camacho at 140lbs, while VIDA MMA Guam's Zack Benavente will trade skills with Guam Muay Thai's Mike "The Medic" Puccini at 155lbs.

Standby fights are also in the roster with Guam Muay Thai's Jay "The Newphew" Jones of Guam Muay Thai making his debut at 125lbs while Marc Vidaurri waiting for an opponent at 220 lbs. Khalil Knunu, also of Guam Muay Thai, will be fighting at 155 lbs.

Austin Kosam (135-150 lbs), VIDA MMA's Pete Benavente (135 lbs), and Independent warriors Alejandro Tebit (205 lbs) and Kimo Adriano are also looking for possible foes. JJ's Guy Reily Miyawata will clash with JJ's Guy Reily Miyawata, while teens Sitchiru Langu of Red Ants Academy and Kimo Adriano collide at 145 lbs.

Mafia enjoys top view in Masters

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 6JMS Mafia continues to lord it over in the Masters division of the 2017 Saipan Electronic Darts Association league, held in different bars on the island.

The Mafia dropped its latest match against the Chow Time Calamity Fun held last week, but still enjoy a comfortable lead with eight weeks left in the season.

They hold a 176-96 record, up by 30 wins in the four-team field against closest pursuer Oleai Nakayoshi (146-26).

The Calamity Fun remained at the cellar despite the win with a 95-177 record. Their chances of clinching the title are dim, unless they start winning more games in the 17 matches played and hope the top three lose big time.

The Calamity Fun opened up with a 3-1 decision over their opponents in the Singles Regular Cricket with Alfred Hocog, Adrian Montalbo, and league secretary Warlee Ellama delivering. Greg Sasamoto was the lone casualty in the first four games played.

The Mafia, however, bounced back in the Partners 701 and matched Calamity Fun's inspired performance. They went ahead after the Wildcard Cricket games, 7-5, but again dropped another 3-1 match in the Singles 501 forcing the deciding Team 1101 match.

Hocog, Sasamoto, Montalbo, and Zaldy Quebral then bested the trio of Gilbert Gatmaitan, Joker Camacho, and John Cruz to escape with the win.

Nakayoshi, with Jun Santos leading the way, breezed through an 11-6 victory against the 6JMS Pythons in the other Masters division match.

Results of other matches last week are as follows:

A Division
- Proofers 12, Gunners 5
- Predators 11, Drunken Warriors 6
- Ridin'Darrty 10, D'Mekaniks 7
- Dragon Masters 9, Mafia 7

Tuesday B
- Warriors 15, Executioners 0 (forfeit)
- D'Strikers 11, Chamberos 4
- Bull-It 10, Flukers 5
- Lupeyt Boyz 10, LOL 5

Chichirika C
- Knights 13, Scorpions 2
- Hut Shot 11, Bulls Hitters 4
- Bull-It 10, Flukers 5

Kingfisher C
- Parakeyu 14, Dart Vaders 1
- Ridin'Darrty 12, Sunsports 3
- Hit'em Up 10, Re-Darts 5

Ladies
- Hot Mess 11, Bull-It II 4
- Exquisites 9, Momshies 6

Fanihi Thursday B
- Bandits 11, Crafters 4
- D'Strikers 10, Shaka 5

Flame Tree Thursday B
- Drillers 9, S.O.L. 6
- Jump It 9, Real Deal 6
- Serial Killaz 9, Dartaholics 6
- Ridin'Darrty 9, Na'Gupu 6

TEEN

From Page 28

League Kyushu, Japan High School Soccer Tournament, and Inter High School Championship.

Meanwhile, Angeles said the Teen Ayuyus had a light training last Sunday afternoon a few hours after they arrived in South Korea.

"We had a light training on one of the fields at Changnyeong Sports Park and it was just 10-minute walk from our hotel. Coach Mita (Michiteru Mita) stressed on the positioning of players when defending and some attacking options. We headed back to the hotel at 6pm and had lights off at 10:30pm after the boys did their laundry," Angeles said.

The Teen Ayuyus will continue with their daily activities today until Thursday, starting off with a morning training session and then a team meeting early afternoon before playing in their second training match. The CNMI players are in South Korea to prepare for the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers that will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8.

NMSA

From Page 28

"I will do my best to make sure that all of your athletes, coaches, and officials are registered. The more time you can give me, the more likely it is that it will be able to register everyone before the deadline," said White.

In other news, athletes that are passport holders of the country they are representing must have a minimum of five years residency as per council regulations in all sports.

This does not include football, netball Rugby 7s, and weightlifting that follow eligibility rules of their respective international federations.

The council would also follow the relevant minimum age limits as applied by all international federations. Those who are turning 15 and 19 on Dec. 31, 2017 for athletics and judo, and boxing, respectively, while 14 at the opening day of competition for tennis.

Teams could enter two male and two female players that turns 18 on Dec. 31, 2017 for golf, while also using a maximum of two golfers in each division that are open age.

It will be 16 years old for the kata and 18 for kumite events of karate at the opening day of competition, while 18 for rugby at the start of the preliminary matches.

CAROL

From Page 28

Islands, Samoa, and American Samoa.

Lee's fellow CNMI player Isabel Heras got a taste of the difficult games in the tournament after bowing to Australia's Zara Brankovic, 0-6, 1-6, in yesterday's opening round. Another Commonwealth representative—Robbie Schorr—also lost his first singles match when he fell to Aussie Dylan Heap, 0-6, 4-6.

Schorr will also play in the doubles and will team up with Guam's Mason Caldwell. The CNMI-Guam combination will have its opening match today against Camden Camacho, also from Guam, and Marlin Hannam of Vanuatu.

In the girls doubles, Lee is joining forces with Australia's Oleksadra Kalachova and the fourth-seeded pair will duel the Aussie duo of Isabella Bozicevic and Helena Spiridis today for a spot in the quarterfinals. Heras, on the other hand, is partnering with Milan Krish, also of Australia, and they will challenge Roopa Bains and Megan Smith.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	63	49	.563	—
New York	59	51	.536	3
Tampa Bay	58	55	.513	5½
Baltimore	55	56	.495	7½
Toronto	52	59	.468	10½

Central Division

Cleveland	59	50	.541	—
Kansas City	57	53	.518	2½
Minnesota	53	56	.486	6
Detroit	51	59	.464	8½
Chicago	41	68	.376	18

West Division

Houston	71	40	.640	—
Seattle	57	56	.504	15
Los Angeles	55	57	.491	16½
Texas	53	58	.477	18
Oakland	50	62	.446	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	65	44	.596	—
Miami	52	57	.477	13
Atlanta	51	59	.464	14½
New York	49	60	.450	16
Philadelphia	40	69	.367	25

Central Division

Chicago	58	52	.527	—
Milwaukee	59	54	.522	½
St. Louis	55	56	.495	3½
Pittsburgh	54	57	.486	4½
Cincinnati	45	66	.405	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	79	32	.712	—
Colorado	64	48	.571	15½
Arizona	63	48	.568	16
San Diego	49	61	.445	29½
San Francisco	44	69	.389	36

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4Gives FC vs Saipan Elite in Boys U16 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

4Gives FC's Nolan Gatharngel, right, kicks the ball in front of the defense of Saipan Elite's Rintaro Miyawaki during their boys U16 title division game in the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

4Gives FC's Edwin Kim throws the ball after a save.

Saipan Elite's Merrick Toves checks on his teammates while dribbling.

4Gives FC's Jether Yobech, second left, foils Rintaro Miyawaki's bid to steal the ball.

Saipan Elite's Jaydee Jose breaks away from his defender.

Saipan Elite's Rintaro Miyawaki dribbles away from the defense of 4Gives FC's Nolan Gatharngel.

Ronnel Ocanada, second left, is greeted by teammate Royce Angelo Ben during a timeout in the second half.

Saipan Elite's Rohan Basnet, left, tries to score against 4Gives FC's Edwin Kim.

Wieters hits grand slam as Nationals beat Cubs, 9-4

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Matsuyama wins at Firestone with big finish

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here in last year's ITF Juniors tournament on Saipan, swept her foe in the opening round of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships yesterday at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Carol eases through first round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee needed only two sets to win her opening round match in the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships yesterday at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lee outclassed Australia's Grace Schumaster in the first set, 6-3, and then demolished her Land Down Under foe in the second, 6-0, to cruise to the second round of the ITF Juniors event. In Round 2, the Commonwealth bet will be pitted against New Zealand's Elys Saguil-Ventura, who eliminated Lee's Pacific Oceania teammate Naia Guitton of Tahiti, 6-4, 6-3. Lee and Saguil-Ventura will battle for the quarterfinals slot today.

The fourth seeded Lee is at the lower half of the 32-player field and though she is among the favorites in the tournament, she does not want to think way ahead and be overconfident.

"I really want to win but I have to manage my expectations and just take it one match at a time. If I think ahead I could lose focus. There's always pressure to perform well and my expectations of myself are always high regardless of seeding or draws. I've worked hard on the mental aspect of my game, trying to embrace the pressure rather than give in to it," Lee said.

She added that the level of competition in the Oceania Closed Championship is so high that even seeded players should not be complacent or else they would find themselves out of the race.

"The competition is tough and all the players have worked hard to peak at this tournament as it's the strongest ITF tournament in the Pacific every year," the CNMI player said.

Several players ranked in the Top 300 are entered in the competition and also suiting up in the B2 tournament are nationally ranked players from Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon

See CAROL on Page 26

Teen Ayuyus face champion Japanese HS team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team had a champion high school squad as an opponent in its first training match in South Korea yesterday.

Assistant coach Jershwin Angeles, in an email sent to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, said that the Teen Ayuyus were scheduled to challenge Kunimi High School yesterday to start their series of games in their five-day training camp at the Changnyeong Sports Park. Results of the game were unavailable at press time.

Kunimi High School is located in Nagasaki Prefecture in Japan and is known for its strong football program. Several of its graduates moved up to J1 League and others played in junior leagues in Japan. One of Kunimi's proud products was FC Tokyo's Yoshito Okubo, who also played for the Japanese national team in the 2014 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

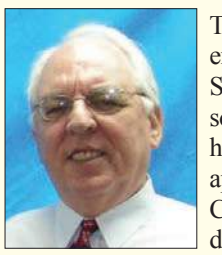
The school won back-to-back titles (2001 and 2002) in the National High School Soccer Championship and a perennial contender in the Takamadonomiya U-18 Cup Prince

See TEEN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Boys U18 National Team players jog around one of the pitches at the Changnyeong Sports Park in South Korea during their training session last Sunday.

NMSA looking for Vanuatu chef de mission

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



White

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is hoping to appoint the CNMI's chef de mission for the 2017 Vanuatu Pacific Mini Games in time for the scheduled heads of delegation meeting in Port Vila on Aug. 18 and 19.

NMSA president Michael White previously appointed Janet McCullough of sailing, but she begged off since she won't be available for the 10th edition of the Mini Games set from Dec. 4 to 15.

The chef de mission would be in charge of arranging the delegation's accommodations at the athletes village, the daily meals, transportation to and from the venues, and supervise all the team's other needs.

NMSA is asking for possible names that would be the CNMI's chef de mission or any volunteer that would step up to take on the huge task of being the Commonwealth's point person in the scaled down version of the Pacific Games.

NMSA will also be shouldering all expenses of the Commonwealth's chef de mission.

Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue is also looking forward to meet all chef de missions of the 22 member nations. He then reminded member federations of submitting their athletes' entries on or before the Oct. 20 deadline.

Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, and host Vanuatu have already started their work on their respective athletes' entries since late submission is not permitted.

NMSA president White has reminded the four local federations—athletics, golf, Rugby 7s, and 3x3 basketball—that would be sending athletes to the Games to take note of and follow the Oct. 20 deadline.

See NMSA on Page 26